THE TIMES

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THURSDAY MARCH 6 1997

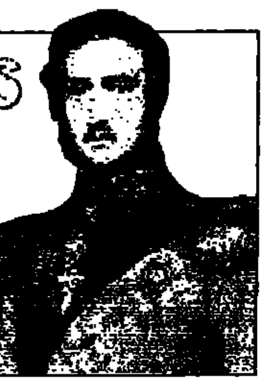
McALPINE MEMOIRS

Christmas rituals at Chequers PAGE 17

BEST FOR BOOKS

Sir Roy Strong on Albert, architect of the modern monarchy

PLUS: Peter Riddell on *the life and times of* Tim Bell PAGES 38,39



WHY MARRIAGE STILL MATTERS

William Rees-Mogg on the instability *of living together* PAGE 18

BEST FOR JOBS

WANTED

- ☐ Director........70K
- ☐ Secretary........65K
- ☐ Consultant........55K
- ☐ Graduate........17K

APPOINTMENTS 26-PAGE SECTION

Meat industry hygiene report was suppressed

By Polly Newton
Political Reporter

AN unpublished report on the meat industry raised fears more than a year ago that poor hygiene was putting the public at increasing risk of infection from *E. coli*, the bacterium which recently claimed 20 lives in Scotland.

The report was commissioned by the Meat Hygiene Service, an agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and was intended for publication last March. But it was suppressed after the authors refused to tone down criticisms in the draft version.

The BSE crisis broke that month and yesterday the report's editor Bill Swann said: "The reasons given were that it was perhaps not good timing, given that the industry had received such a battering with criticism about BSE." Mr Swann, a former Official Veterinary Surgeon, added that had the report's recommendations been implemented, the risk from *E. coli* would have been much reduced.

Last night Labour accused Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, of being behind the decision to shelve the report, although officials said that it had not been presented to ministers.

The £1 million report was compiled by the Hygiene Advice Team, whose six members were contracted to the Meat Hygiene Service for 12 months from March 1995 to audit Britain's meat industry.

The team visited every one of the 450 abattoirs in England, Scotland and Wales, before compiling a 54-page report — a copy of which has been obtained by *The Times*. They found that abattoirs were accepting for slaughter animals whose hides or fleeces were contaminated with faeces and said: "Organisms, such as *Escherichia coli 157* and *Salmonella*, can be introduced into the plant on the skins of dirty livestock." It recommended a national policy to define "unacceptable contamination" of animals destined for slaughter.

And it said that, instead of trying to wash away traces of contamination on carcases — which simply spreads bacteria — abattoir workers should trim off those parts of the animal that were obviously dirty. However, the process is labour-intensive, and would not be popular in an industry with tiny profit margins.

Mr Swann said yesterday: "If the recommendations in the report were being implemented uniformly and fully across the country, the risk from *E coli 157* would be considerably diminished."

There was considerable anger among the Hygiene Advice Team when the Meat Hygiene Service refused to publish the report. They claimed that service had wanted to do so, but had been overruled by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

Mr Swann, who is now an assistant chief veterinary officer for the RSPCA, said: "I felt the report would have been of enormous benefit to veterinary surgeons involved in meat work and to people involved in food hygiene. The recommendations were obviously very important." A ministry spokesman said that the report had been circulated within the industry, but no minister had seen it.

Although the report's authors accept that their findings were sent to individual abattoirs, they argued that only a national code of practice would stop abattoirs from taking in dirty stock. They said that intense competition meant that few abattoirs would turn away animals if they believed another would accept them.

Report, page 4

£175 tax free pension is Tory target

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

JOHN MAJOR held out the prospect of a tax-free pension of £175 a week for the next generation yesterday when he unveiled plans for the biggest overhaul in state pensions for 50 years.

Producing a centrepiece proposal for the Tory election manifesto, the Prime Minister said that everyone would have their own personal pension scheme to be built up over their working lifetime. The scheme — called Basic Pensions Plus — was, however, attacked by Labour, creating a rare division between the two parties on policy.

Under the plan, which could not come into effect before the end of the next Parliament, people starting work would pay £9 a week of their national insurance contributions into a fund for their old age. But today's pensioners and workers would not be affected.

Under projections outlined by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, people on average earnings of about £350 a week would build up a fund worth £130,000 during their working life. That would be enough to give them £175 per week in today's money — or more if their funds performed better than government assumptions. Pension contributions would no longer be tax-free, but the income they produced would be — and any money left in the fund at death could be passed to heirs.

If the fund did not perform as well as it should, an inflation-linked basic pension level would continue to be guaranteed by the state. But once the scheme was fully operational in 40 years' time, all the cash to fund pensions would come from investments by big pension funds.

Carers, the unemployed, sick, disabled and some others would get credits towards their basic pension guarantee, and benefits would continue to be available for those unable to save enough.

Mr Lilley and Mr Major claimed that, in time, the switch could release as much as £40 billion in state spending. At first, however, the scheme would cost £160 million a year, rising to £7 billion annually by the end of the changeover period.

Conservative policy chiefs were delighted that the "big idea" for their next term of office had arrived. They saw it as a boost for personal capital ownership on a par with the sale of council houses and privatisation in the 1980s. Although some Conservative MPs voiced doubts about the electoral impact if Labour raised fears that the state pension was under threat, Mr Major's close circle was delighted that he would be able to portray his party as capable of radical thought.

Labour strongly criticised the plans, even though it is working on substantial reforms of its own which will involve a big extension of personal pensions. Harriet Harman, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, described them as "a really chilling prospect for hard-working families. They certainly spell the end of the basic state pension." Gordon Brown said that the £7 billion a year ultimate cost was the equivalent of 4p on income tax. And the cumulative cost to the taxpayer would be £151 billion — or more if the Government had to make up any shortfall in personal funds.

But Mr Major said it was "a revolution for the new generation and probably one of the furthest-sighted reforms produced by any government".

He did not expect legislation to be produced until "the back end of the next Parliament. This is not a vote-winner in the sense that we are saying to people in this election 'This is a new goody'. The people who will benefit will be only just of voting age or below. It is not a short-term vote winner. It is the right thing to do for the economy, for pensions, for government."

Shares in life insurance companies barely moved yesterday, largely because the City believes that there is little chance of the Conservatives returning to power to implement the proposals.

MAIN POINTS

- ☐ New Basic Pension Plus to replace basic state pension and Serps
- ☐ Individuals to get £9-a-week rebate to invest in personalised pension when they start work
- ☐ Government to transfer the 5 per cent of earnings from Serps into new pension funds
- ☐ Today's workers and pensioners unaffected by scheme, to be phased in after 2001.
- ☐ Government to guarantee basic state pension, but average earner expected to build up pension worth £175 a week.
- ☐ Scheme will cost taxpayer up to £7billion a year medium term, but save £40 billion a year from 2040
- ☐ Tax relief on pension contributions to go, but pension income tax free.

Details, pages 8, 9
David Willetts, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Industry welcome, page 25
Pennington, page 27
Graham Searjeant, page 29

SIMON WALKER

Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, talks about his pension plans to student newspaper reporters. They may be the first generation to try them

Respect law, Berisha told

BRITAIN yesterday told President Berisha that he must respect the rule of law if Albania was to receive aid from other European nations.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said in a BBC interview: "We are not prepared to give support when he acts in an authoritiarian and dictatorial way." His warning came as diplomatic efforts intensified to end the crisis and the Albanian opposition appealed to the West to put pressure on President Berisha to end the state of emergency.

Britain accused, page 12
Rebels dig in, page 13

Attlee is to join the Tories

By James Landale
Political Reporter

THE grandson of Clement Attlee, the post-war Labour Prime Minister, is to join the Conservative Party in the House of Lords.

In a rare coup for the Tories, Earl Attlee, 40, — a crossbencher since he inherited the title in 1991 — said he was entering the Tory fold because he supported the party's policies.

His announcement boosted ministers in the wake of the Wirral South by-election defeat and the failure of the Tories to make any ground in the polls less than eight weeks before the election.

He told *The Times*: "I am joining the Conservative Party at this time because I believe that the Conservative Government is right on the economy, right on Europe, and that John Major is the only man who will defend the constitution and avoid the break-up of the United Kingdom. John Major is an excellent Prime Minister and I will do all I can to convince people to vote for *the Conservatives*."

His conversion comes despite his criticism of the Government's ban on handguns.

New logo asserts Princess's distance from Royal Family

By Daniel McGrory

DIANA, Princess of Wales, has designed her own logo, which distances her still further from her former husband and the Royal Family.

Her staff said last night that the new logo was chosen and partly designed by the Princess, who doodled on a sketch pad what she was looking for.

The official reason for the new look is that she moved her offices to Kensington Palace this week and her correspondence has to reflect the new address. However, royal sources say the removal of the Prince of Wales feathers from her logo is yet another sign that she has severed her links with her former husband. Instead, her staff say, she asked for "something simple, something dignified and something appropriate".

What she was given is the Spencer coronet set above a swirling capital D, all in dark blue rather than royal blue. Kensington Palace refused to say how much the new logo cost. "We designed it in-house," a spokesman said. "The Princess doodled a bit and then she looked at the various proposals the staff suggested and picked this. She is very happy with it and thinks it very smart.

"I am not sure what the print is called that we have used and I do not think she knows, but it is the style she liked. We just got out some print books and she looked through and made her choice. Simple, no fuss."

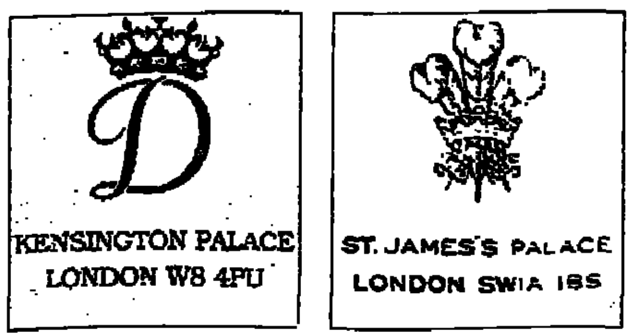
Staff say that no snub is intended with the doodled design, adding that it was necessary given that the terms of the divorce settlement included her moving her staff to Kensington Palace.

The office move was agreed to prevent embarrassing contact between the Princess and her former husband, whose offices were almost next door to hers at St James's. The move was delayed while an apartment in Kensington Palace, where the Princess lives, was refurbished.

Although she retains "Princess of Wales" in her title, she felt there was no obligation to use the feathers in her new design.

It is intended that the logo will be used only for letterheads and envelopes and will be embossed on the "with compliments" slips that her office sends out in replies to correspondence. The Princess is believed to receive more mail than any other member of the Royal Family.

Secret cash deal, page 7



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The new logo, left, lacks the Prince of Wales feathers

UGH
TORY'S PLANS TO REFORM PENSION SCHEME

"It seemed sensible with retirement looming in May"

Boat comes in for civil servants

One of the last groups of expatriate civil servants in Hong Kong will set sail for home from the colony today aboard the luxury cruise ship *Oriana*.

They are benefiting from a perk of the colonial era, which entitles them to travel home by sea rather than air when their assignment ends. Page 5

BBC sacks Baker

The BBC has dismissed Danny Baker, the radio presenter, after he lambasted the referee who awarded the controverial penalty which gave Chelsea a cup-tie victory against Leicester City.......... Paage 3

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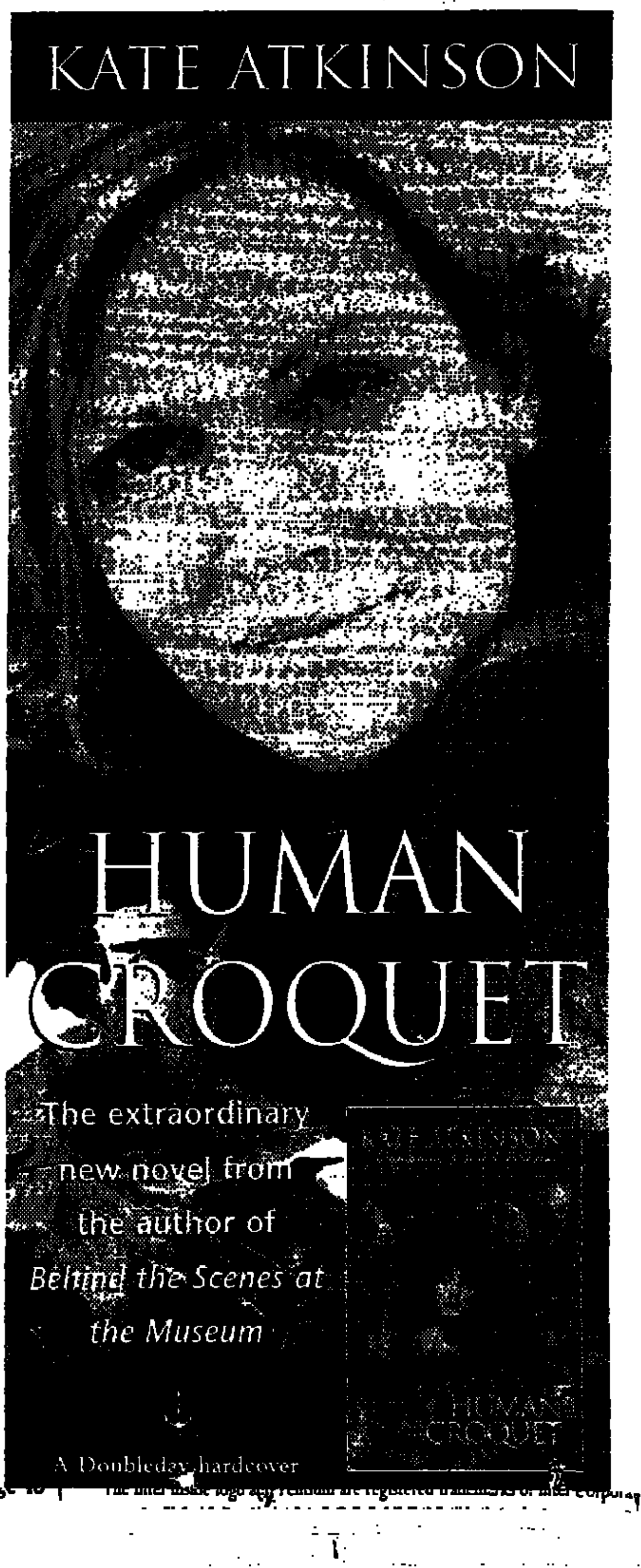

KATE ATKINSON
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Nation misses out as MP's words of warning fall on deaf ears

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Just as a rambler may stumble upon a clearing in the wood where, unheard by any other living creature, a small songbird is wasting his melody on the uncomprehending trees, so a sketchwriter may amble into the Commons Press Gallery on an uneventful afternoon and see a little-known backbencher in full voice, with a powerful argument, a well-crafted text and almost nobody to hear.

His song is witnessed by few beyond a weary Madam Speaker, two gossiping ministers, the Press Association note-taker, the *Hansard* stenographer, and five baffled Japanese tourists in the Strangers' Gallery.

Yesterday was such an afternoon. Andrew Robathan (C, Blaby) was moving his Civil Actions (Limitation of Proceedings) Bill. The young former soldier had a good case, a happy turn of phrase and confident delivery. In a fair-minded way he was expressing thoughts which would raise a cheer from millions outside the Palace of Westminster. His proposals — if contained in a Government Paper or Party manifesto — would be earnestly discussed across the nation.

But because it was only Mr Robathan, only a Ten-Minute Rule Bill and only a Wednesday afternoon, there may be a grunt from a whip in the Smoking Room ("clever speech by that Robathan fellow") but nothing more. He might as well have been talking to the trees.

For lack of parliamentary time, his Bill will die within weeks, and he knew it. It will scarcely be reported in the newspapers and he knew it. Ignored by television, it might just merit a few seconds' coverage on Radio 4's *Yesterday in Parliament*. And that will be the end of it. All this Mr Robathan knew. But, compelled by reason and indignation, he would propose his Bill regardless.

His case was simple. Britain was catching the American disease. Civil actions for huge damages are being brought, and succeeding, where in the past the aggrieved person would have put the loss down to his own faulty judgment, "just one of those things" or bad luck.

In Lyme Regis someone had slipped on wet cobbles and sued the council for £95,000 because there had been no sign warning that wet cobbles are slippery. An accountant had contracted dysentery in Africa and sued. An unmarried teacher at a Roman Catholic school who had babies by different men, including a former pupil, was suing for "constructive dismissal". A prisoner was awarded damages because his haircut was too short.

The Law Society, said Robathan, had now set up an "accident line" for injured citizens, to drum up trade for lawyers. For them this work was a goldmine. Often the taxpayer footed the bill, through legal aid. Damages (where paid by insurers) worked their way through into higher premiums for all.

Mr Robathan's proposed reform sounded, at first glance, feasible and fair. An ombudsman should hear claims and recommend an out-of-court settlement. If litigants were not prepared to accept it they would be free to go to court, but at their own cost, without legal aid.

The MP had a pleasant lightness of touch. Instructed by the Chair to name the day for his Bill's debate, he replied, after the slightest of pauses: "May I, Madam Speaker. It may be that this Bill does not become law."

And who, asked Miss Boothroyd, would prepare and bring in the Bill? Here it is customary for an MP to reel off a list of sympathisers.

"Myself," said Mr Robathan.

In honour of the Marie Curie Campaign, he was wearing a daffodil.

"... *born to blush unseen, And waste its sweetness on the desert air.*"

Libel litigant takes MacKay to court over entrance fees

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor was accused yesterday of acting outside his powers in a test challenge over the hefty increases in court "entrance" fees he has introduced in the civil courts.

John Witham, a 50-year-old from Essex who is on income support, is challenging the rises because he cannot pay the £500 fee to issue a libel writ and bring an action as a litigant in person. If Mr Witham is successful, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, could face re-paying all court fees collected since the increases came into force in the middle of January.

The High Court writ fee went up from £120 to £500. All other fees for civil proceedings also rose by anything from 50 per cent to 150 per cent in line with Government policy to make the courts self-financing.

Mr Witham's counsel, Peter Duffy, told Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Laws, that when the Lord Chancellor increased fees by amending the Supreme Court Act 1981, he also removed the exemption from fees for those on income support. As a result, Mr Duffy said, Mr Witham was barred from issuing a libel writ and was denied access to the courts. Legal aid is not available for libel because there was no power to waive or remit fees. Before the amendment, court fees could be remitted or reduced where to pay them would involve undue hardship because of the exceptional circumstances of the case.

Mr Witham was unemployed, had no savings and received income support of £57.90 a week, he told the judges. Even if he were able to put aside £20 a week, which was "unimaginable", it would take him six months to save the court fee of £500, he said. Without that, he could not start the action and was, in effect, denied a "right of access to the court".

Mr Duffy said that the Lord Chancellor had no power under Section 130 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 to repeal the provisions which allowed fees to be remitted when increasing court fees. The fundamental principle of access to the courts should not be altered unless there were "clear words in statute", he said. It was not "susceptible to being altered in delegated legislation", particularly where no debate, or vote, had been required by Parliament.

He added that even if the amendment order was valid, it would infringe the European Convention on Human Rights, which guaranteed a right to privacy and to a family life, which the law of defamation was designed to protect "without discrimination on any grounds".

Stephen Richards, counsel for Lord Mackay, said that Parliament had conferred on the Lord Chancellor a "wide discretion to prescribe fees for the Supreme Court", subject to the agreement of the senior judges who are High Court heads of division and the Treasury.

The setting of the fees did not amount to interference with an individual's right of access to the courts, he added. Whether court fees where set at a reasonable level was a separate issue from whether someone should be given any financial help with his fees.

"Furthermore, court fees are but one element in the total costs of litigation, which will depend upon a host of factors such as procedural complexity, need for and costs legal representation, evidential requirements, cost of transcripts, ability to pay other party's costs if unsuccessful and costs of any appeal."

The latest rises will reap an extra £50 million in court fees and are the last stage in a four-year policy to cover almost the entire £310 million cost of running the civil courts.

The judges' ruling which will be given on Friday.

Law, page 42

SIMON WALKER

Labour women MPs petitioning Downing Street yesterday for Mr Evans' de-selection

Major attacks half-apologetic Evans

By Philip Webster and Joanna Bale

JOHN MAJOR yesterday condemned the attack on women politicians by Tory MP David Evans as the maverick rightwinger was forced to apologise after a dressing down from his chief whip.

Mr Evans said sorry to Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, whom he had descibed as "dead from the neck upwards" and to the Prime Minister, whom he said was "vindictive and not forgiving"; but not to his Labour opponent at the general election Melanie Johnson, whose children he branded as "bastards." The MP's selective contrition came after an early morning telephone call from Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip. Then the Prime Minister, asked at a Downing Street news conference whether he condemned Mr Evans' remarks unreservedly and in their totality, replied: "Yes."

Meanwhile, Ms Johnson, admitted that her feelings of indignation were mixed with a certain amount of glee that they could only help her to win his Welwyn Hatfield seat.

At her home in Cambridge yesterday, she said: "It's an extra morale boost to our campaign. He has shot himself in the foot yet again."

Although Mr Evans called her three young children "bastards" because she is not married, Ms Johnson appeared yesterday to be more enraged by his remarks that she had "never done a proper job". She said: "He is a man well known for his very strong political views, but he has never attacked me personally in that way and I am pretty shocked.

Melanie Johnson: abuse gave her a boost

"I was particularly amazed at the inaccuracies about my work. The children understand the words Mr Evans used, but they are rather bemused by it all."

John Horrell, the leader of Cambridgeshire Conservative councillors, said last night: "Ms Johnson's children are very well brought up and her family circumstances are held in high esteem. Mr Evans' comments were totally inappropriate and I am at a loss to explain why he made them."

Mr Major's condemnation was not enough for Janet Anderson, Labour's women's spokesman. "If he is so completely at odds with Mr Evans then he surely must agree that Mr Evans is not fit to be a Tory MP and should go," she said.

She later led a group of women Labour MPs to Downing Street today to hand in a letter calling on Mr Major to de-select Mr Evans.

She said in her letter: "Mr Evans's disgraceful comments clearly made him unsuitable to be a Parliamentary candidate in the forthcoming election."

But Mrs Bottomley was satisfied, saying that she had a "very gallant" apology from Mr Evans. She said: "I can only say when he came to speak in my constituency the other day, they had a tremendously good evening. I have had a very gallant and elegant apology from him, which is much appreciated."

Second minister admits misleading Parliament

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

A SECOND defence minister was forced yesterday to admit he had misled Parliament after giving a false answer to the House of Lords about Gulf War syndrome investigations.

Earl Howe, a Junior Defence Minister, said answers he had given to parliamentary questions in June and July last year about the cause of death of a number of animals found in the Saudi and Kuwaiti deserts at the end of the Gulf War had been inaccurate.

Last summer Lord Howe said samples from the animal carcasses had been sent for examination to the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine at Edinburgh University, which concluded they had died of natural causes.

Inquiries at the Ministry of Defence, however, revealed that the samples were never sent to Edinburgh and it is now believed that no tests were carried out at any research centre. MoD officials are now searching through documents and records to see what happened to the samples, which were taken from a number of camels, goats and sheep. In a report last month Richard Mottram, the MoD's Permanent Under Secretary, confirmed there had been serious failings by a number of military officers and civil servants who had advised Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, that organophosphate pesticides were not used by British troops in the Gulf. Veterans suffering from a range of illnesses which they have called Gulf War syndrome have claimed that the toxic pesticides could have caused the deterioration in their health since returning from the Gulf.

Mackay chides judges

THE Lord Chancellor last night cautioned judges against taking it on themselves to overcome defects in the law. Lord Mackay of Clashfern said it was his "firm view" that a judge's duty was "to apply the law as he finds it, not to seek to rectify perceived inadequacies by the use of creative interpretation".

When deficiences were revealed "it is for Parliament to respond", he said. Lord Mackay was speaking in London at the prizegiving for the *Times* Law Awards competition, sponsored by the chambers of Anthony Grabiner, QC, at Essex Court, Temple, in the City of London.

The winner of the £3,000 first prize on the title "The Law Lords — A Supreme Court?" was Elizabeth Errington, 23, a graduate in psychology and physiology from Oxford. The £2,000 second prize went to John McKeever and £1,000 third prize to Kenneth Yap.

The winning essay and full list of winners will be carried on the Law page in *The Times* next Tuesday.

Blair backs off polling referendum

Tony Blair yesterday backed away from committing a Labour government to a timetable for staging a referendum on changing the electoral system. The Labour leader also issued a warning that, even if the public voted in favour of change in a referendum, reforms might not be introduced in time for the general election after next.

Labour unveiled a package of planned constitutional reforms agreed jointly with senior Liberal Democrats.

It omitted any commitment to electoral reform but pledged both parties to the abolition of voting rights for hereditary peers, Scottish and Welsh devolution and a Freedom of Information Act.

Woman's body found buried

Police have found the body of Diana Goldsmith, the former common law wife of Derek Goldsmith, a millionaire, buried in the garden of a house in Bromley, southeast London. The mother of three children, Miss Goldsmith, 45, was last seen in Sevenoaks in January 1995. Two men have been charged over her disappearance.

New ferry safety rules condemned

New ferry safety rules being announced by the Government today on the tenth anniversary of the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster, are "too little, too late", families of the 194 victims said. To meet international standards 111 British ferries must be adapted. But campaigners claim basic problems with roll-on roll-off ferries will remain.

Paedophiles 'exceed million'

A police officer who has spent 32 years tracking child abusers claimed there were at least a million active paedophiles in Britain. Detective Superintendent Michael Hames, former head of the Obscene Publications Branch at New Scotland Yard, told a Perth conference that for every convicted paedophile another 20 went free.

Failing schools have more boys

Schools found to be failing their pupils often have many more boys than girls, an analysis by school inspectors disclosed yesterday. A study by Ofsted, the schools inspectorate, of the 260 schools it has judged to be failing out of more than 14,000 assessed, found that weak leadership and poor teaching were the main characteristics of failure.

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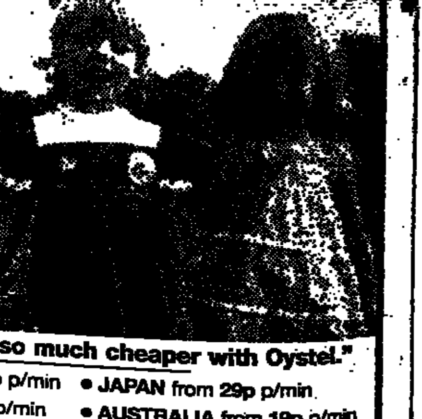

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هكذا من الأصل

Police reveal chilling details of how Lin Russell met her death

Mrs Russell: gagged with strips of towel

By Stephen Farrell

THE killer of Lin Russell, the mother attacked with a hammer as she walked home across a Kent field with her two daughters, bound her wrists with shoe lace and gagged or blindfolded her with strips of towel, detectives said yesterday. Her six-year-old daughter Megan, who was also battered to death, had a bootlace wrapped twice around her neck, possibly to force her mother's compliance.

Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens said Megan's sister Josie, aged nine, who suffered 16 head injuries but survived, did not remember her mother and sister being tied up. Josie is now recovering in Wales with her father, Dr Shaun Russell. Kent police revealed for the first time that the attack had lasted between 10 and 15 minutes, as officers renewed a public appeal for information yesterday. In the nine months since the attack, no one has been arrested, but police have released a photofit of the killer.

Mr Stevens said the victims were found fully-clothed and there was no evidence of sexual motive for the attack, but he said the reason for the assault might never be known, even if the killer was caught. "Anybody with a propensity to do this is suffering from some sort of psychological disorder, probably being a psychopath," he said.

He said the killer could have been disturbed at any time, and that the evidence showed the attack took place within a space of three or four square metres. "You can't tie people up and do all these activities within the space of a few seconds. You are talking about 10 to 15 minutes. If you work the time out, there is exactly enough time for that to have happened," Mr Stevens added.

Mrs Russell, 45, had her wrists bound with a lace from her own tennis shoe. The lace was still around her right wrist when she was found. The bloody towel strips, torn from the family towel, were removed and were later found in the children's string bag, which had been thrown over a hedge a mile away. The boot lace around Megan's neck has not been found and probably belonged to the killer. Police say it is vital that the lace is found. "We know that was put around her neck before the fatal hammer blow," Mr Stevens said. "You can speculate but clearly it could have been used to force mum to do certain things. Can you imagine a mother being confronted with a ligature around her child's throat? She would comply, wouldn't she?"

Mrs Russell and Megan were killed sometime between 4.20pm and 5pm on July 9 last year in Cherrygarden Lane, in woods near Chillenden, Kent. They were returning from a swimming gala at the girls' school to their home in Nonington, near Canterbury. They left the school at 4pm and were seen walking through a field into the woods. The last sighting was at 4.20pm. Josie later told police that she saw a car drive past them, then the driver climbed out, reached into the back of the car, brought out a hammer and attacked Megan and her mother before chasing her. Mr Stevens said the team of 15 detectives were taking calls from the public almost every day, and was using forensic technology to recreate the scene. Although officers had liaised with detectives on the Billie Jo Jenkins murder in Hastings, there was nothing to suggest links. Extensive inquiries had also failed to discover potential military or occult links.

Mr Stevens renewed appeals for sightings of a fair-haired man seen driving a light-coloured car with rear mudflaps, anti-static strip and a GB sticker near Cherrygarden Lane around 5pm.

Megan: battered to death with hammer

FA Cup goal comment rebounds on Danny Baker as he is sacked from BBC phone-in

Radio host and referee pay penalty for one kick

By Damian Whitworth and Russell Kempson

A HOTLY disputed penalty kick yesterday produced two results beyond the FA Cup tie it decided. Danny Baker, the radio presenter who lambasted the referee who awarded the penalty, was sacked by the BBC, and the referee himself will no longer officiate during a Premiership match between the two sides next month.

The controversial penalty that gave Chelsea victory three minutes from the end of extra time in their FA Cup fifth round replay against Leicester City on February 26 caused uproar among City supporters. Some are suing the Football Association over the decision.

Later that night Baker, who was hosting an irreverent radio phone-in show, called on supporters all over the country to barrack Mike Reed, the referee, wherever he went and "make his life hell".

Baker was sacked by the BBC yesterday hours before the FA Premier League took the unprecedented decision, on the advice of police, that Mr Reed would not officiate at the next match between Chelsea and Leicester.

Baker said he believed that the BBC had been leant on by the football authorities who were upset because he provided an outlet for the uncompromising views of fans. BBC bosses said that Baker's ferocious verbal assault on the referee during his Wednesday evening slot on Radio 5 Live was the final straw after a string of incidents.

After saying that Mr Reed was to be the sacrificial lamb in a campaign against referees, Baker cut off callers who disagreed with him and asked "all football supporters to barrack him [Reed], really get on his back. Use words like 'fraud' and 'you are no good, you were wrong, Mr Reed'."

Tony Hall, head of BBC news, said of Baker: "This wasn't the first occasion that he had crossed the line between being lively, humorous and controversial and being insulting to the audience. This is something we cannot tolerate. It was decided that in the light of the programme, when Baker encouraged unacceptable behaviour towards a football referee and was blatantly rude to callers, he should no longer host the programme."

Reed: planned rematch will not take place

Last November Baker advised Tottenham Hotspur fans angry at their team's performance to throw their programmes on the pitch, which is against the law. Earlier this year while Brighton and Hove Albion were in turmoil, Baker wished terminal illness on the directors.

Baker, a close friend of the equally outrageous Chris Evans who recently parted company with Radio 1, was unrepentant. "I'm not that surprised. It's been an uneasy marriage since the beginning," he said. "I don't think you can represent the true feelings of rank-and-file football fans as well as [keeping] your contacts with the hierarchy in the FA. I think they were leant on." Answering accusations that he had not respected listeners' views, he said: "It was never meant to be a debating forum."

After being sacked from his Wednesday show Baker declined to continue in his Saturday slot. He will continue to work for GLR, a BBC station in London.

Referees said that the decision to release Mr Reed, 45, from Birmingham, from a game was an unwelcome precedent. David Elleray, the Premier League referees' spokesman, said: "Many people within the game, not just referees, were disappointed with the comments made and concerned over the actions they might provoke."

Arthur Smith, general secretary of the Referees' Association said: "This [decision] is a bit worrying. It shows the pressures on referees at the highest level and if anything goes wrong it seems that they have to bear the brunt of it. A referee gives an honest decision, as he saw it at the time, and then gets slaughtered." He said it would be worth looking at technological aides, such as action replays on giant screens, to help referees.

Earlier this week Leicester City supporters served a writ on the FA, seeking £140 in damages plus expenses when one of their number claimed he had to miss two days' work because he was so distressed by the penalty decision.

Football, page 48

Danny Baker, who called on football fans to make referee Mike Reed's life hell

Detectives investigate child's TV abuse role

By Adrian Lee

THE parents of the young star of a television drama about child sex abuse may be questioned by detectives for allowing their daughter to take the role.

A viewer complained that by acting in *No Child of Mine*, Brooke Kinsella, 13, was herself abused.

Hampshire police confirmed yesterday that there would be an investigation and said that officers would speak to social services and the Crown Prosecution Service. The actress and her parents, George and Debbie, of Islington, north London, may also be interviewed.

The programme was made by the Southampton-based Meridian Broadcasting and screened in most ITV regions last week.

A police spokesman said it was too early to say if there would be a prosecution but it was felt that the complaint merited "a closer look".

Miss Kinsella's agent, Yvette Powell of the Anna Scher Theatre, where the teenage actress spends one evening a week, said: "I am sure nothing will come of it. Brooke was definitely not harmed."

Meridian said there had been 135 calls of complaint about the programme and 173 messages of support. A helpline set up following its screening has received more than 45,000 calls.

Life for killers of elderly gay man

By A Staff Reporter

A SOLICITOR'S son and his two friends were jailed for life yesterday for the murder of an elderly homosexual after taking drink and drugs.

One of the trio had told police he had watched Quentin Tarantino's film *Pulp Fiction* on the night of the attack, Exeter Crown Court was told. Frederick Sweet, 64, and Bernard Hawken, 53, were assaulted in a shelter in Central Park, Plymouth, on November 6, 1995.

Both men had their faces crushed as they were held face downwards and repeatedly stamped on and their genitals were stabbed and mutilated. Mr Hawken will be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

Richard Bownes, 18, Roberto Pace, 18, and Stuart Smith, 19, all of Plymouth, had denied murdering Mr Sweet and attempting to murder Mr Hawken, and causing him grievous bodily harm with intent. The teenagers all claimed they were out of control through drink and drugs and although they were present when the attacks took place, they never intended to cause serious injuries.

They were convicted of murder and causing grievous bodily harm, and will start their sentences in youth custody.

Bownes was persuaded to go to the police by his father Michael, a senior solicitor at Plymouth City Council, who questioned his son after becoming suspicious by the amount of washing he was doing and the colour of the water.

The gang, all of whom came from well-off families and had been to grammar schools in Plymouth, had spent the evening drinking up to two litres of wine apiece, smoking cannabis, taking large amounts of Valium and sniffing butane. They then went to the park, which is a well-known meeting place for homosexuals at night.

As they left the park a witness heard one say "We done good, we showed them," but the next day their bravado turned to self pity as they told friends what they had done and one said: "I have ruined my life."

Bownes: suspected his son of involvement

Checks urged on drunk doctors

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A SCOTTISH judge yesterday urged the Department of Health to introduce compulsory two-yearly health checks on doctors. His call came after a surgeon was allowed to continue operating for several years after colleagues suspected his serious drink problem.

The British Medical Association said that it would not oppose checks if they became part of doctors' contracts. The recommendation was made by Sheriff Principal Gordon Nicholson, QC, who conducted a fatal accident inquiry into the deaths of two patients operated on by Gerald Davies, a consultant surgeon formerly of St John's Hospital, Livingston, West Lothian.

Dr Davies, 49, carried out emergency operations despite having an alcohol level twice the maximum permitted for driving. He told the inquiry that he drank half a bottle of whisky and a lager chaser every night. Doctors specialising in alcoholism told the inquiry that Dr Davies's brain and liver damage suggested that he drank much more.

Formal complaints were made to the managers of the NHS Trust where he worked by staff and GPs but were not acted on. Patients complained that Dr Davies attended clinics smelling of drink.

In a report published yesterday, Sheriff Nicholson criticised the hospital procedures that allowed Dr Davies to keep practising. He said managers who received numerous complaints about Dr Davies's drinking failed to act swiftly enough and junior doctors feared that their careers would be damaged if they spoke out.

Sheriff Nicholson recommended that NHS trusts should require staff suspected of an alcohol problem to undergo a medical examination. Health authorities should consider "compulsory two-yearly medical examinations which would include, among other things, liver function tests."

Yesterday Arthur Morris, chairman of the BMA's Scottish Council, said: "I fully support Sheriff Nicholson's recommendations for improving the monitoring of alcohol problems among health professionals."

Sheriff Nicholson said that he found it "quite astonishing" that serious concerns expressed in 1994 by John Rainey, a consultant surgeon who had to correct an operation performed by Dr Davies, did not provoke an urgent and immediate inquiry. "I take a very serious view of this matter," his report says.

The fatal accident inquiry was into the deaths of two of Dr Davies's patients. Sheriff Nicholson concluded that they were seriously ill by the time Dr Davies operated on them and he could not be held responsible for their deaths.

Italian cricketers stumped by language

By Michael Horsnell

ITALY'S less than celebrated cricketers could be stumped even before they take the field for World Cup qualification in Kuala Lumpur next week. Their coach, Doug Ferguson, does not speak the language, which does not help when it comes to explaining the difference between a leg break and a googly.

Mr Ferguson, 67, from Newbottle, Co Durham, is hastily taking language lessons to make himself understood before his team puts willow to leather. But the best he has been able to manage so far is "*Conduce con la testa e con la spalla davanti*" which roughly translates: "lead with your head and front shoulder when you are playing forward." Mr Ferguson said: "I've been going over to Italy for about 10 years to coach various sides so they asked me to take over the national team."

He says his side will do well even though he has seen them for only four weeks since the summer. "The language is a bit of a problem. But I will get the message across somehow — maybe with sign language. It's a very expensive business getting everyone together. Luckily we have a rich president."

Italy are in the same group as Scotland, Hong Kong, Bermuda and Papua New Guinea in the 22-nation qualifying tournament. The Scots have been training in a heat chamber at Strathclyde University to prepare for the temperatures in Kuala Lumpur.

But Mr Ferguson, who is a scout for Northamptonshire, warns: "Italy are improving all the time. Three of the tournament teams will go through to the 1999 World Cup proper in England. But Scotland are among the favourites. If we bat 50 overs against them we'll have done really well."

Meanwhile Scotland's coach, Jim Love, fancies his chances: "You have to remember how far down the pecking order Zimbabwe were 10 years ago, or the remoteness of the possibility that Sri Lanka would win the 1996 World Cup."

Cricket, page 46

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Meat industry report: damning story of abattoirs' failings

Poor hygiene led to contamination of animal carcasses

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

THE unpublished report into Britain's meat industry, commissioned by an agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and then suppressed, paints a damning picture.

At almost every stage, from before slaughter to the dispatch of meat and carcasses from processing plants, the inspectors appointed by the Meat Hygiene Service found evidence of routine unhygienic practices.

Dirty knives were put into holders that were supposed to be sterile and clean knives into dirty holders. Workers failed to wash their hands frequently enough and often did not change their overalls during the day "despite gross contamination".

In a number of plants, some of the carcasses awaiting dispatch were contaminated with specified bovine offal, the parts that potentially harbour the BSE agent and are supposed to be removed before the carcass is sent out.

One common problem was the stringing up of carcasses on rails which moved along more quickly than workers could deal with them, leading to bunching.

The report by Professor Bill Swann of the Hygiene Advisory Team says: "Blood, faeces and urine contaminate the fleece or hides of adjacent carcasses, making hygienic skinning more difficult. When cattle forefeet are removed on the bleeding rail, the exposed joint surface is vulnerable to contamination from hides of adjacent carcasses."

It says the process of cutting into legs presents particular problems. "Hide opening cuts were made from foot to hock, cutting inwards and transferring dirt to the carcass. Dirty knives were used to flay hide and swapping of hands, from holding hide to touching exposed carcass, without a hand wash, were frequent observations. Poor access to sinks and sterilisers was common."

The report says that in chilling and freezing areas, contamination was evident on some carcasses in most abattoirs. "Contamination with stomach or intestinal contents and faecal contamination from poor dressing practices, were observed.

"Faecal pellets and rectal tissue in sheep, hair and singeing residue in pigs (from the process used to remove hair on pig carcasses) and bile staining were also noted." The auditors also inspected conditions in areas where meat and offal are packaged. They commented: "The hygiene handling of wrapping and packaging materials for offals was generally poor ... Hand washing practices were poor in this area."

Meat due to be sent out from plants was often held in areas without temperature controls. "Loading bays were frequently not refrigerated and meat was allowed to remain in these areas for long periods, with resulting elevation of carcass or offal temperature."

Containers holding the meat were often of an inappropriate size or shape and marked with bloody fingerprints, boot prints or oil marks and blood leakages from ruptured vacuum packages.

In areas where carcasses were cut, the inspectors found meat contaminated with faeces, nail and hair debris, bone dust, oil, grease and dust.

In smaller plants, it was not uncommon to find dogs and cats wandering around in ancillary areas, the report says. In some cases they were encouraged by food put down for them by abattoir workers. "This practice is not desirable," it says.

Professor Bill Swann, whose report was suppressed

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Embryo watchdog says cloning of humans could benefit mankind

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

THE creation of human clones might bring benefits to mankind and should not be outlawed, the chairman of the authority set up to regulate embryo experiments said yesterday. No blanket prohibition should be imposed on human cloning but the existing law may need "tweaking" to ensure any future experiments are properly controlled, Ruth Deech, of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, said.

Although the prospect of producing fatherless identical human beings was repugnant to many people, the potential benefits should not be ignored and they would never be realised if a total ban on such research was imposed, she said. Giving evidence to the Commons Science and Technology Committee, which is holding an inquiry into cloning following the successful creation of the cloned sheep, Dolly, at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, Mrs Deech ruled out the production of human beings as "banks" to provide organs or bone marrow for transplant, or as "consolation" for bereaved parents who wished to reproduce a beloved child. But she said it was essential to retain flexibility in the law to accommodate future scientific developments so that projects could be assessed on merit.

A possible application of human cloning already being suggested, which might be acceptable, was in the treatment of sufferers from a rare inherited disorder of the mitochondria — the so-called "power plant of the cell" — which surround the nuclei of cells which can cause blindness and epilepsy. By removing the nucleus — minus the defective mitochondria — from an embryo created by *in vitro* fertilisation in the normal way and placing it in a donated egg stripped of its own nucleus, a cloned baby could be created that would be the genetic offspring of its parents without the inherited disorder. Other potential applications were likely to become evident in the next five years.

Ruth Deech: said law might need tweaking

Mrs Deech, who has been chairman of the authority for two years, said that public alarm about the Roslin experiment, although understandable, had been "extreme" and it was now time to step back and consider the possible benefits and dangers. There was no cause for panic as human experiments were not imminent, she said.

She said the authority saw itself as the "thin blue line standing between public concerns and scientific advance". "We are concerned, as I think most members of the public are, about the possibility of ignoring the individuality and value of each human being as an entity in himself or herself. I think we all feel that the manufacture of human beings to serve other people's ends must be a bad thing."

"We take our responsibilities to the public very seriously. We would never want to licence any treatment that would be risky."

She said the legal framework laid down by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act of 1990 provided adequate safeguards but there was a question whether the definitions of "embryo" and "fertilisation" were broad enough to cover cloning. The best way forward would be to broaden the definition, if neccesary, and retain the "subtlety" of the Act. Under the Act, the cloning of human embryos is banned and any work on an embryo outside the womb requires a licence from the authority set up to oversee the act. However, the research at the Roslin Institute involved the cloning of an adult cell taken from one sheep, the nucleus of which was fused with an egg taken from a second sheep.

It was not clear whether this created an embryo, within the meaning of the Act. A barrister's opinion was being sought and would be available "within weeks," Mrs Deech said.

Regulations governing embryo research differed across Europe and there was a possibility, as in the Diane Blood case, that patients could circumvent British laws by travelling abroad for treatment.

Common herd to follow Dolly

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE same methods used to clone Dolly the sheep may soon produce cloned cows. Scientists in Denmark and Australia are using the technique developed at the Roslin Institute in Edinbugh to produce identical copies of cattle.

The Danish scientists, from the National Institute of Animal Sciences' laboratory at Viborg, are using cells from freshly slaughtered animals in the attempt to clone cattle, *New Scientist* reports.

They take immature eggs and remove the DNA from the nucleus of the cells. They also take adult cells from the cows' ovaries, and use the DNA from these to replace that removed from the immature eggs, fusing the two together by exposing them to an electrical current.

This means that all the genetic material in the egg results from a single cow cell, and the resultant calf would be a clone of the donor cow. "Our donor cows had been dead around half an hour when we collected the cells" Dr Peter Holm of the Viborg laboratory says. "The culture system we use is more or less the same as Roslin's."

An Australian team led by Dr Alan Trounson at Monash University in Clayton, Victoria, is using much the same method. They get their donor DNA from cells taken from foetuses or cells from the ovaries of live cows. Neither team has produced live offspring, but Dr Trounson told *New Scientist* that he believed at least a dozen laboratories around the world were working on the technique.

Dr Ron James, managing director of PPL Therapeutics, the Edinburgh company responsible for commercial development of the Roslin work, says that there would be technical obstacles to cloning the dead. "The DNA must be intact. If an animal is dead, the DNA will rapidly decompose. You can't just put it in the fridge and clone it later."

☐ A HYBRID bird that looks like a chicken but behaves like a quail has been hatched and raised by a Californian scientist whose work could eventually help to treat human brain damage. The "chail", or "quacken" was bred under a microscope at the Neurosciences Institute in San Diego using a brain cell transplant technique pioneered in France. From studying the brains of the birds scientists hope to find ways of restoring ing certain functions to the human brain.

BT rivals charge 20% less, says report

By Tim Jones

MOST domestic telephone users would get a better deal by switching from BT to another supplier, according to a report issued today.

Despite well-publicised discount schemes, the report claims BT is the most expensive option for most people. The Consumers' Association says that most families could cut their bills by 20 per cent or more with another company. Only those whose call bills are less than £12.69 a quarter get a better deal with BT, under the light-user scheme, it says.

When the companies were compared using a typical quarterly bill, which averages £53.43 including rental costs and British calls, all of BT's rivals were cheaper.

The report says: "Our results show that BT's much trumpeted discount schemes, such as Friends & Family and Premier Line don't save much off most people's phone bills.

"The discounts are only given on your call costs and make no difference to the line rental charge — which accounts for at least half the value of the bills for a large proportion of BT customers."

Its report, published in *Which?*, says companies such as Bell Cablemedia, Cable London, ComCast, Ionica and Nynex, offered a service which was consistently a quarter or more cheaper than BT.

A BT spokesman said: "Customers should look carefully at their own calling patterns and bills and not assume that they will automatically make any worthwhile savings with another company."

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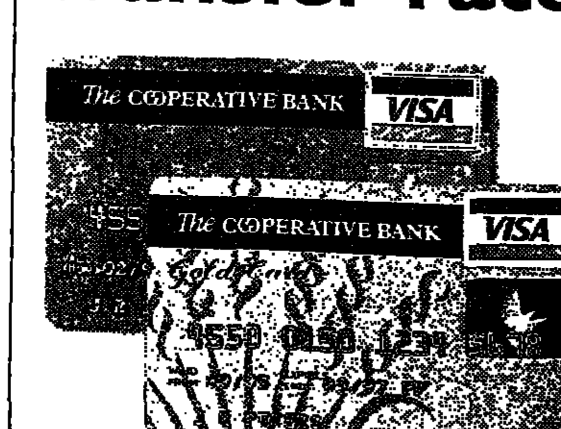

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'Boat finally comes in for Hong Kong civil servants

By Catherine Field in Hong Kong and Mark Henderson

ONE of the last groups of expatriate civil servants in Hong Kong will invoke a final privilege from the dying days of empire when they set sail for home from the colony today.

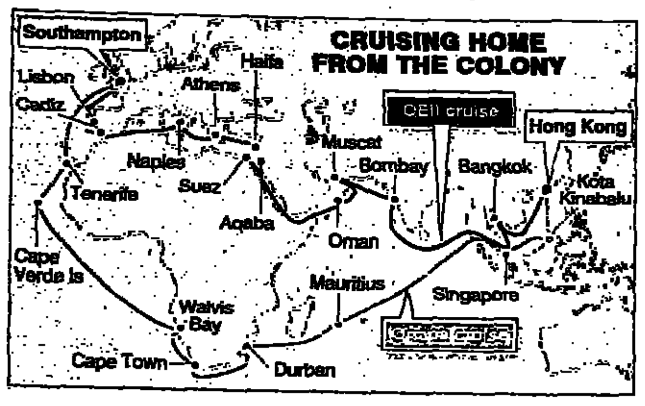
Fifty-three officers and their families, among them the former directors of the colony's Treasury and Social Welfare departments, will leave for Southampton at sunset tonight aboard the luxury *Oriana* cruise ship at the Hong Kong taxpayers' expense. On Saturday the *QE2* will pull away from her Hong Kong berth with a second group of more than 100 retiring civil servants.

They are benefiting from an old perk of the colonial era which entitles them to travel home by sea rather than air when their assignment ends. One reportedly flew back from his retirement home in Northern Ireland to board a luxury cruise.

The cheapest accommodation for the 34-night journey aboard the *Oriana* — a four-berth cabin with shower — costs £3,300 per person. The *Oriana*'s most exclusive and expensive cabins, the Premier Suites, cost more than £12,000 per person for a double room with an ocean-view balcony. A single first-class air fare with British Airways from Hong Kong to Heathrow costs £2,382.

Hong Kong taxpayers are paying almost £1 million this financial year on travel costs for former civil servants, on top of the £40 million already earmarked for the retirement compensation package for British civil servants leaving the territory. Officials receive compensation of about £100,000 whether they serve on after 1997 or not.

The retiring members of Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service will enjoy more than four weeks of cosseted life in the *Oriana*'s luxury cabins, as they cruise the seaboards of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. The ship will call at Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia, Singapore and Mauritius, before continuing to Durban and Cape Town, Walvis Bay in Namibia, the Cape Verde Islands and Tenerife. The *QE2* passengers will cruise the Gulf of Thailand before visiting Bangkok, Bombay, Dubai, Muscat and Aqaba. The *QE2* then sails through the Suez canal and on to Haifa, Athens, Naples, Cadiz and Lisbon en route to Southampton.



Between ports, *Oriana* passengers can amuse themselves at West End shows, films and concerts, sun themselves beside the ship's three swimming pools or choose between three restaurants, nine bars and four dancing areas. Cabin stewards will serve breakfast in bed, shine shoes and dim the bedroom lights when guests turn in.

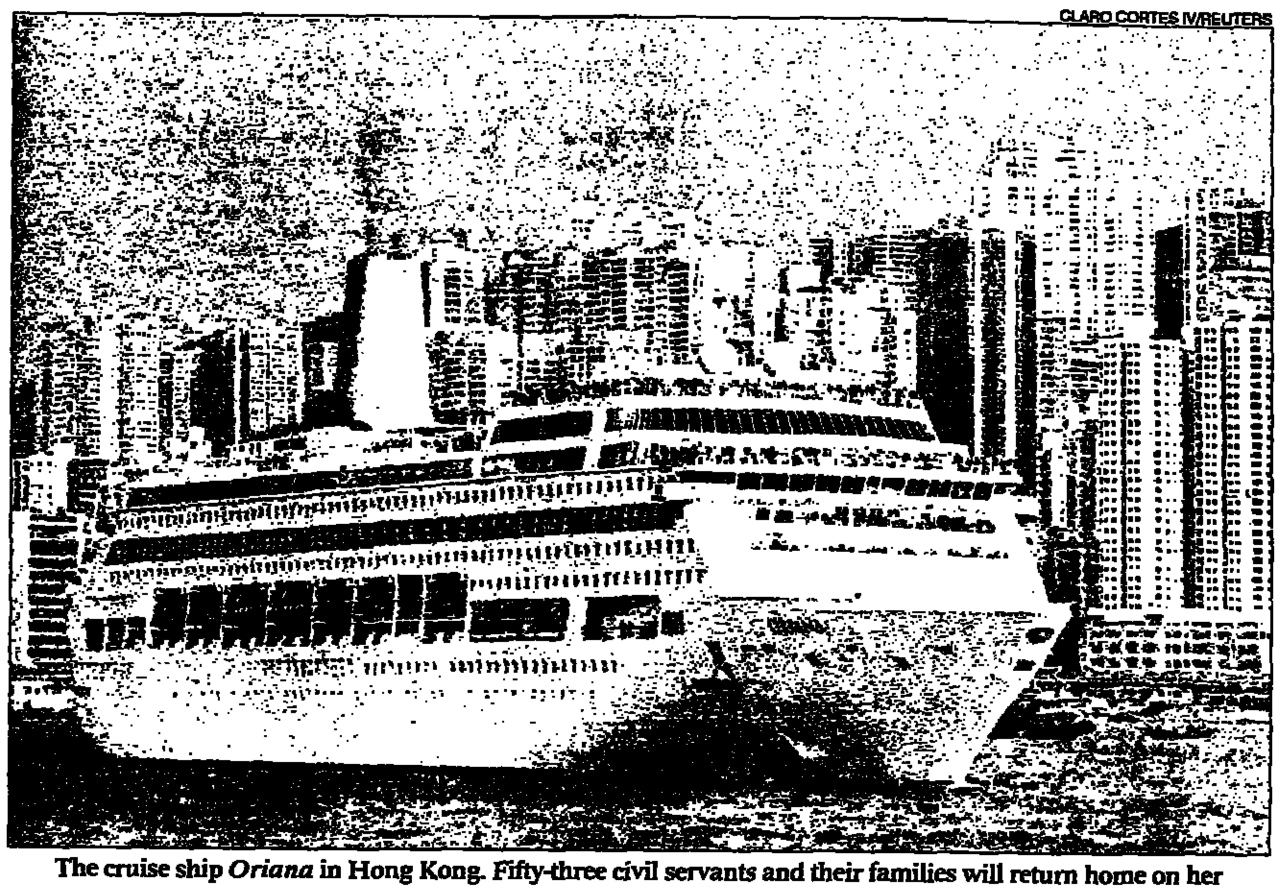
QE2 passengers must content themselves with six bars and have no theatre to attend, although they have seven restaurants. Many civil servants preferred the *Oriana* to the *QE2*, saying she has better facilities and classier service, although the *QE2* gets through 73,000 bottles of champagne, 12,500 boxes of cigars and 2,500lb of caviare every year.

Oriana carries 1,800 passengers and 760 crew, and officials from P&O, who operate the ship, said last night that the vessel is full for the journey. "This is a beautiful, luxurious ship. I think these people will have a lovely cruise," said Thomas Fong of P&O.

The travel perk was scrapped for civil servants joining after 1984, although an exception was made for the Governor, Chris Patten, who will leave aboard the Royal Yacht *Britannia* on the stroke of midnight on June 30 when the colony is handed over to China.

The departure of civil servants before the handover reflects deep pessimism among officials about work prospects under Chinese rule. Hong Kong's efficient and meritocratic civil service has been an exception among Asian bureaucracies noted for red tape and rampant corruption.

☐ **Hong Kong:** Britain and China have agreed that international journalists can cover the transfer of sovereignty on June 30 without having to submit to political scrutiny (Jonathan Mirsky writes). Hugh Davies, the Ambassador, said journalists will only have to go through normal accreditation procedures.


CLARO CORTES IV/REUTERS

The cruise ship *Oriana* in Hong Kong. Fifty-three civil servants and their families will return home on her

Council refuses to house sex offenders

By Stewart Tendler
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CONVICTED paedophiles, sex offenders and drug dealers could be denied council housing by a local authority.

Rhondda Cynon Taff council in South Wales is the first to demand that prospective tenants declare criminal records, especially those involving sex, children and drugs. If they do not, and a criminal record is discovered, the tenants could lose their homes. There will be a right of appeal.

The council's housing committee acted after residents in the village of Hawthorn successfully fought to prevent David Simms, a convicted paedophile, being housed by the council when he left prison. Council officials visited Simms in jail and got him to agree not to live in the area.

If an existing tenant is convicted of a crime involving paedophilia, sex offences or drug dealing, they could also be evicted under legislation allowing the council to prevent anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Judith Burford, chairman of the housing committee, said: "Our unanimous decision was taken to stop paedophiles from living close to children."

TV industry establishes study group on violence

By Alexandra Frean
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TELEVISION watchdogs agreed yesterday to set up a working party on screen violence, in response to pressure from the Conservatives and Labour.

The BBC, the Independent Television Commission and the Broadcasting Standards Council said that the new body would work on establishing common criteria for assessing the amount and degree of television violence. It is to be chaired by someone from outside the industry.

The agreement was reached at a seminar in London on screen violence, organised by the three organisations and attended by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, her Labour shadow, Jack Cunningham, and broadcasters and programme-makers. Issues discussed included introducing cinema-style ratings for television programmes.

Mrs Bottomley said that television companies needed to ensure that violence was not shown when children might be watching. Dr Cunningham said that a Labour government would impose tough standards to protect them.

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Find promises better therapy

Scientists discover how enzyme makes cancer cells grow

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

SCIENTISTS in Scotland have discovered why the cells in tumours go on multiplying out of control.

The research may lead to new screening tests for cancer, and new ways of treating it, according to the team from the Cancer Research Campaign's laboratories in Glasgow, led by Dr Nicol Keith.

They have found why an enzyme called telomerase, which is active in unborn babies, is also activated in many cancers. Babies need to grow very quickly, and the enzyme makes that possible by suppressing the controls which tell cells to stop dividing after a certain time.

In adults the suppression of such controls is harmful, leading to cancers which grow uncontrollably. The Glasgow team has studied the gene responsible for making part of the enzyme, and found that it is located in a section of chromosome three which is often observed to be abnormal in human cancers.

This indicates that genetic damage involving the telomerase gene may underlie cancer. In 97 per cent of samples from cervical cancers, the team reports in the journal *Oncogene*, there was evidence that the gene was present in multiple copies, which would lead to greater production of the enzyme.

"This discovery is exciting because it could have implications for new therapies and diagnosis," Dr Keith says. "We are also delighted to be the first to publish this finding, despite a lot of international competition."

Professor Gordon McVie, Director-General of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "This is the first report of a genetic alteration involving telomerase in human cancer. To scientists across the world, this discovery fits like a jigsaw with what we already understand about cancer development. It undoubtedly offers hope for cancer patients because over the next few years we could develop a cancer diagnostic test and may even be able to develop new anti-cancer drugs."

Keith: discovery widens understanding of cancer

So far the team has studied only one of three genes involved in making telomerase. They now plan to search for the other two and trace whether genetic damage to them may also be implicated in cancer.

The discovery unpeels another layer in scientific understanding of how cancer starts. "It explains a lot of what we observed in cancer but didn't understand," Dr Keith says.

It also provides a new target for cancer therapy. Since the enzyme telomerase is functioning in the cancer cells but not in the healthy cells, a therapy that would prevent it operating should stop the cancer in its tracks. This has already been proved in tissue culture, Dr Keith says, and could provide a new approach to cancer treatment.

TIM CUFF

The former picture restorer David Webster with the chip that he plans to have inserted into works of art

Chip developed to identify stolen art

By Dalya Alberge
arts correspondent

A COMPUTER chip developed for identification of the casualties of war has been adapted for investigation into stolen works of art.

A former picture restorer and dealer has had the technology developed so that a similar chip can carry details of a painting, sculpture or piece of furniture into which it has been inserted. The history, description and provenance of any work of art can be read with a scanner. Officers from Scotland Yard and representatives of the National Gallery and the Tate are believed to be among those who will attend a demonstration tomorrow.

The chip, no larger than a grain of rice, is completely camouflaged once inserted and impossible to locate, said David Webster, managing director of Eidetic International, based in Somerset.

He said that £500 million worth of insured art was stolen in Britain each year. "The police find criminals but can't prove the items they've found belonged to the person they were stolen from." The latest technology — a sort of invisible electronic fingerprint — could identify the objects and link them directly with their owners. Almost any material other than silver can take the chip.

The idea came to Mr Webster while he was watching the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*. As he researched the subject, he stumbled upon technology developed by an American company, Destron Fearing, in the late 1960s for fighter pilots in the Vietnam War, to replace the ID tag they wore around their necks. It has been used since then for medical records and to protect endangered species. Mr Webster said that Destron Fearing had given him exclusive rights to develop the technology for art in Europe and claims that the technology goes far beyond existing marking systems.

He will display the device at the Museums and Galleries Commission, showing how his "readers" costing a few hundred pounds can call up the data with a scanner. Installing the chip costs about £40 an object, but museums committing themselves to 1,000 items would pay £12.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dunblane parents launch book

Parents of some of the 16 Dunblane children shot dead with their teacher by Thomas Hamilton published a book yesterday to mark the massacre's first anniversary on March 13. Dr Michael North, whose daughter Sophie, 5, died, said the book confirmed how well human nature could cope with adversity.

□ *Dunblane: Our Year of Tears* by Peter Samson and Alan Crow (Mainstream, £12.99). All profits to Save The Children

Train stab case

A 17-year-old youth was charged with the attempted murder of Alison Kennedy, who was stabbed with a commando knife on a train. Magistrates in Guildford, Surrey, remanded him in custody until March 13.

Drug withdrawn

An anti-flea treatment which is claimed to have killed nearly 100 pet cats and dogs was withdrawn from sale in Britain. Virbac, the manufacturer of Droplix, said it was temporarily suspending sales of the product.

La Plante libel

The writer Lynda La Plante accepted undisclosed libel damages in the High Court from the *Daily Express* over a claim that she had breached a contract with two ex-prisoners whose story she used in the TV series *The Governor*.

Cadets spared

A York judge granted two men conditional discharges because they would lose places at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, if jailed or put on probation. They admitted causing an affray and damage in a pub car park.

Portrait stolen

A portrait of the Rev William Buckland, founding father of geology, has been cut from its frame at Oxford University. It was stolen from the library at the Department of Earth Sciences, to which only university members have access.

Window on past

The Department of National Heritage has issued an emergency "spot listing" on Pontin's 1937 Riviera Hotel in Weymouth, Dorset, prompted by the district council's concern that original panoramic windows might be removed.

Rare animals die

Twenty-five animals including lizards, fruit bats and prairie dogs were suffocated by smoke in a fire at the Desert World section of the Island Amazon Adventure centre for endangered species at Newchurch, Isle of Wight.

Microdot will put burglars on spot

By Paul Wilkinson

THE microdot, that favoured tool of the Cold War spy, has won a new role in the battle against burglary.

The dots that once held secret messages and were disguised as full stops in letters now contain a householder's postcode. They are being used to mark items that are likely to attract thieves.

With the dots attached by glue, their makers claim they are the ultimate deterrent to theft. "They are virtually invisible to the naked eye, about the size of a full stop," said David Northey, whose Luton-based company Alpha Scientific invested £2 million in developing the idea.

"A thief has no idea of how many, or where, the dots are," he said. "Even if he knows the piece has been treated and tries to remove them, he can never be sure if he has got them all."

The dots come suspended in a heavy-duty adhesive in a bottle with a brush, similar to a pot of nail varnish. Each contains up to 1,000 microdots and the buyer can delicately blob or coat his item as he wishes. Each dot can include a postcode 60 or 70 times. There is an eye-catching label to be displayed in a prominent position for potential burglars to read.

The system was found to cut theft dramatically when Cleveland police offered it to people and organisations with vulnerable equipment in Stockton-on-Tees. Dots are also being offered on Jaguars, scattered throughout the cars.

Yesterday West Yorkshire Police began offering pots of dots to the public at a £7 discount on the usual price of £25 a bottle. Othe forces will follow. West Yorkshire patrol cars are being issued with a combined magnifier and torch. It enlarges the dot more than 60 times to enable the information to be read.

Tourism hits new records

By Dareh Gregorian

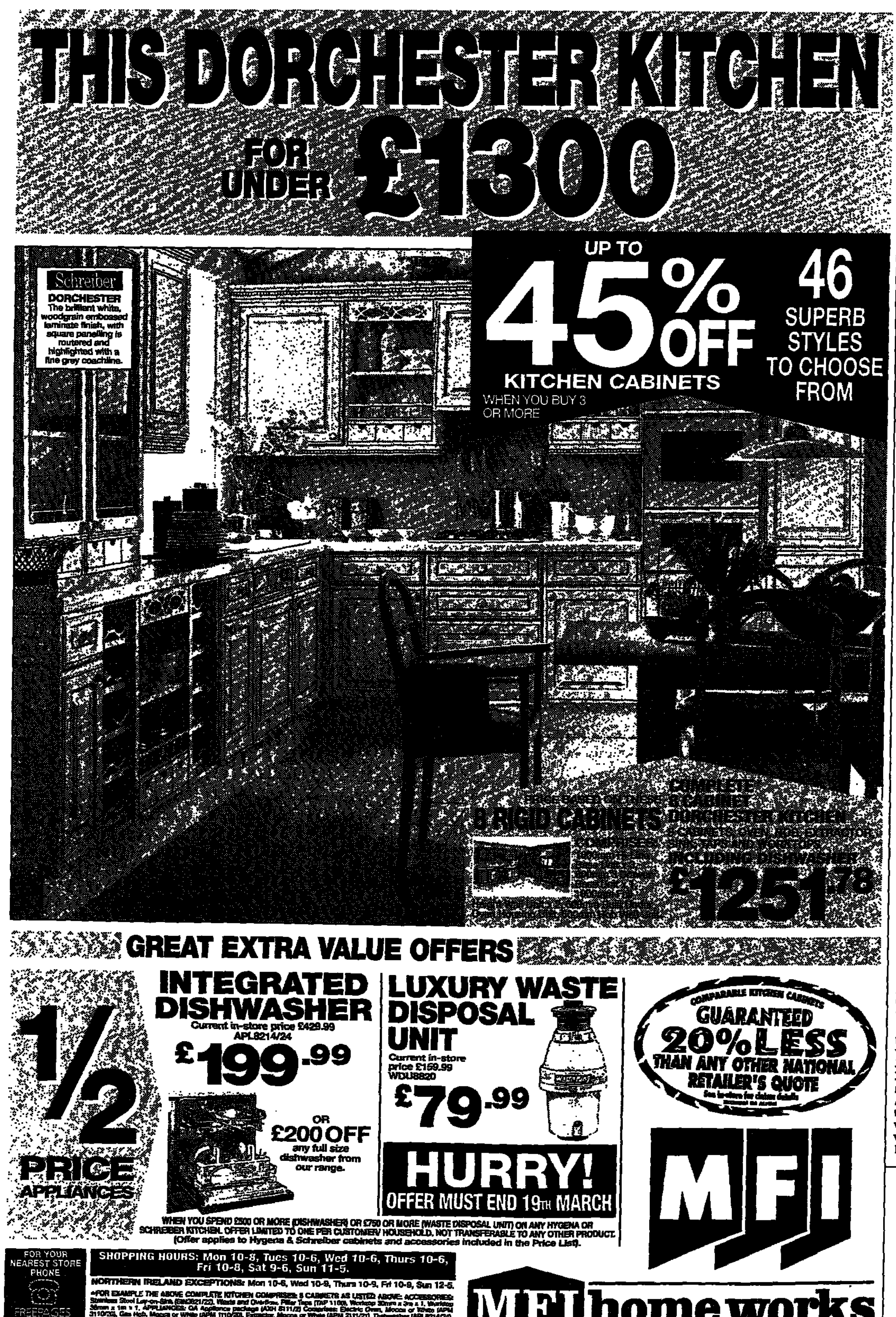
A RECORD 26 million overseas visitors came to Britain last year, while a record 43 million Britons went abroad.

According to provisional figures from the Office of National Statistics, the rise in the number of visitors was due to a 12 per cent increase in tourists from western Europe, up from 15.3 million to 17.1 million.

The rise in visitors was an 8 per cent increase over the previous record year of 1995, and the amount they spent rose 5 per cent to a new high of £12.67 billion. It was the fifth successive year both visitor numbers and spending had risen, the report said.

The number of visitors from North America rose slightly, from 3.883 million to 3.896 million, and from the rest of the world from 4.799 million to 4.981 million.

The most popular destination for British tourists was western Europe, which saw 34.5 million visitors, up from 34.1 million in 1995. Almost 3.8 million Britons went to North America, up from 3.2 million the year before, and 5.1 million went to other areas of the world, up from 4.5 million in 1995.



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Princess reaches secret cash deal with sacked maid

By Carol Midgley

A ROYAL housemaid who claimed that she had been unfairly sacked by Diana, Princess of Wales, accepted a compensation deal yesterday which she described as "better than winning the lottery".

Sylvia McDermott, 44, who spent nine years cleaning the royal apartments at Kensington Palace, came to an amicable agreement with lawyers acting for the Princess minutes before an industrial tribunal case for unfair dismissal was about to start.

Miss McDermott, who had earlier rejected an offer of £5,500, declared that she was "very happy" with the settlement, reached in a consultation room at Croydon Industrial Tribunal. The amount has not been disclosed. Smiling broadly, she said: "It's been a horrible six months but it's all over and I'm really pleased with the outcome. If you believe in something, fight for it because everyone deserves justice." Asked if it was like winning the National Lottery, she replied: "It's better than that".

The Princess was equally claiming victory. A statement issued by her office said that Miss McDermott accepted that she had been made redundant rather than unfairly dismissed and had dropped her demand to be reinstated. It added that her compensation settlement was "considerably less" than the maximum of £11,300 that a tribunal can award.

"Diana, Princess of Wales is delighted that a settlement has been reached which vindicates the position she has adopted all along", the statement said. "The applicant was dismissed on September 20, 1996 and was informed that this was for reasons of redundancy.

"The applicant has now agreed that she was dismissed by reason of redundancy, she has abandoned her claim for reinstatement and she has accepted a sum by way of compensation very substantially below what she had been demanding."

Miss McDermott, from Co Durham, earned £9,000 a year with the Royal Household and was given a grace-and-favour flat for her duties, which often included travelling abroad. After the Prince and Princess of Wales separated in 1992, she remained with the Princess. She was expected to tell the tribunal that she had had two meetings with her employer, who had complained about the standard of her work, and was told she was being made redundant. She was to have claimed that another maid was immediately appointed to fill her post.

At 10.30am yesterday the parties entered the tribunal room and David Pannick, QC, for the Princess, told the chairman, Jane Mason, that a "full and final" settlement had been reached which was to remain confidential. The hearing lasted four minutes and no witnesses were called nor evidence given. The Princess's valet, Paul Burrell, who was believed to have been a possible witness, appeared but left without commenting.

Miss McDermott, who has moved in with her partner since losing her home, left the building arm in arm with her barrister, Anu Kapoor. She thanked her lawyers, friends and family but declined to reveal her career plans. "I want to go on with the future now," she said.

She is the latest member of staff who have left the Princess's employ. Last year her chauffeur, Steve Davies, resigned, as did her personal assistant, Nicky Cockell, and her public relations adviser Jane Atkinson. In January this year the Princess parted company with Victoria Mendham, one of her closest aides.

CHRIS HARRIS

Sylvia McDermott yesterday: the payment "was better than winning the lottery"

Theatre is torn by 'Stitch and Bitch' row

By Glen Owen

TWO female costume makers took the management of the National Theatre to an industrial tribunal yesterday, claiming they had allowed "a culture of sexism" to flourish during last year's production of *Mary Stuart*.

Joan Coleman and Nicky James claimed that their manager referred to them as "Stitch" and "Bitch". They told the hearing at Croydon, south London, that they were sexually discriminated against by Kate Morrow Smith after she brought disciplinary proceedings against them in March 1996. Ms Morrow Smith said they had failed to supply a dress on time for Isabelle Huppert, lead in *Mary Stuart*.

The women also claim that despite being aware of "sexist and derogatory references" the theatre's management took no action and allowed a disciplinary process without foundation to continue.

Mrs Coleman denied that she had been abusive to the wardrobe supervisor who had arrived to collect the dress. She claimed that she had politely refused to supply the dress because it still had pins in it.

The women claim that they are now unable to work normally at the theatre. Mrs Coleman said she was being ignored by colleagues and kept out of plans for future shows. The hearing continues.

SATURDAY

IN THE TIMES

WIN A DESIGNER WARDROBE

Your chance to win the dress of your dreams *in the* **Magazine**

THE GOOD BUY

Robert Crampton on shopping as a creative act *in* **Weekend**

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We're all looking for a yellow submarine

BOUNTY hunters were scouring the beaches of Norfolk yesterday for a yellow submarine missing in the North Sea. A £20,000 reward has been offered for finding the 9ft-long vessel, which was surveying the seabed.

The remotely controlled £200,000 mini-sub slipped the "umbilical cord" connecting it to its mother ship and was lost two miles off Bacton. *Super Scorpio (SS Explorer)* is likely to be washed up within the next few days after boats and helicopters hired by Submersible Television Systems failed to find it.

The submarine, one of eight owned by the Aberdeen-based company and the first it has lost, is likely to surface between Great Yarmouth and Cromer, a distance of about 25 miles. The top of the 5ft-high sub features a bright yellow buoyancy aid and the base is an aluminium frame fitted with cameras.

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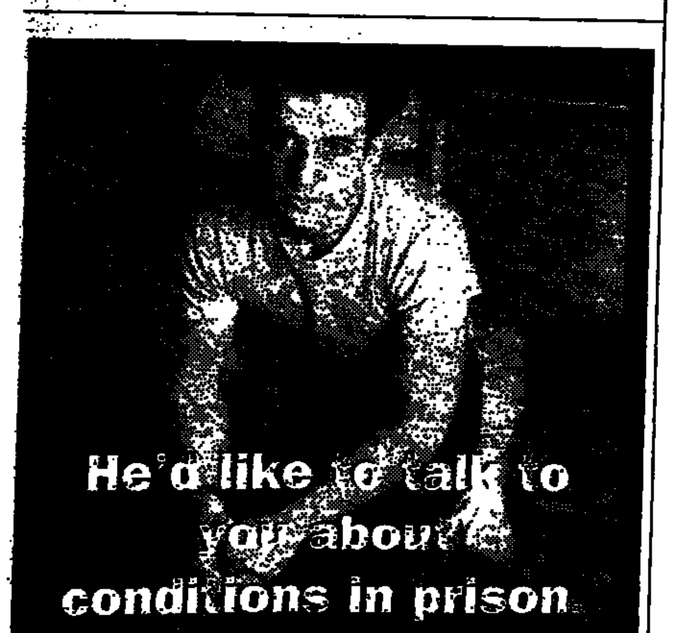

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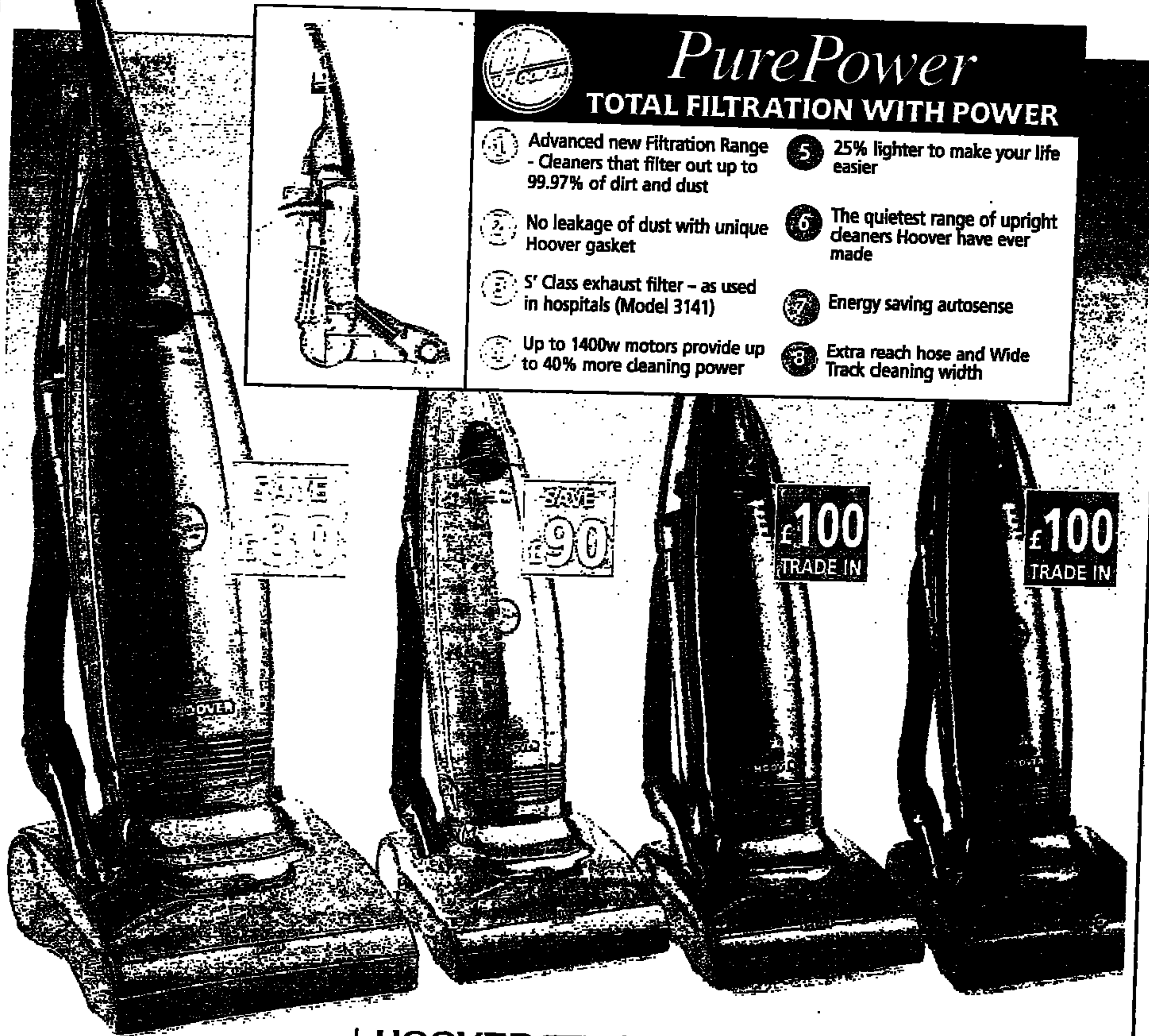

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Major says reforms offer new security in old age

GOVERNMENT SCHEME

By Jill Sherman
Chief Political Correspondent

THE Government's pension plans are the "most fundamental enhancement" of the state scheme since it was introduced, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

Under the plans, people in their early twenties and below will be given rebates from their national insurance contributions of £9 a week to put into personalised pension funds as soon as they start their first job.

The state earnings related pension scheme would also disappear although the Government would top up each person's pension fund with 5 per cent of their earnings every year. Individuals would be able to add their own contributions to the funds.

The Government hopes that the sum accrued would be more than the current state pension entitlement of £61.15 a week, but Mr Major insisted that if necessary the State would be prepared to step in to top up the income.

The "Basic Pension Plus" scheme will not take effect until the end of the next Parliament at the earliest, if the Tories win the general election. The changes will be phased in over a generation and will not affect those in work who are already in their twenties or older or existing pensioners.

Mr Major said the package was about increasing security in retirement, not threatening it. "The proposals we are announcing today will do that by enabling every young person to accumulate an investment fund that could yield considerably more than their basic state pension entitlement."

He insisted that the State would continue to guarantee that everyone would receive at least their basic state pension, uprated at minimum for inflation. Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, said that a person on average earnings could expect to build up a fund worth £130,000, which would provide a pension of £175 a week. This is based on someone earning £350 a week and the assumption that the funds will earn a 4.25 per cent annual rate of return.

Mr Lilley said that if the economy and investments did well the returns could be even better. "If returns are 1 per cent higher than assumed, they will get a pension nearly 30 per cent above the basic pension. If the yield is 2 per cent higher, the pension could be over 70 per cent higher."

But Labour sources insisted it was highly unlikely that the funds would achieve more than the basic state pension.

The aim of the scheme will be to switch the financing of state pensions to savings and investments funded from reductions in national insurance contributions rather than through taxes and charges.

Mr Lilley said that in the longer term the Government could save £40 billion a year. But there will be considerable medium-term costs for whichever party is in government. Mr Major said that the scheme would not be fully implemented till 2040.

The Government would be faced with a bill of £160 million a year, from the time the plans became law, which would build up exponentially to a peak of £7 billion a year in 2040. Tory party sources point out that £13 billion has already been saved by equalising the state pension age at 65 and gradually phasing out Serps.

They denied that tax rises would be needed in the next Parliament to pay for the costs, but did not rule out tax rises in future. They also admitted that income tax cuts would be much harder to achieve once the high costs of the changes started biting.

Social security sources said that no one would lose out under the plans. The unemployed would get credits towards a guaranteed basic pension, as would the sick and the disabled. However, the credits would not be invested in the fund, so those people would not get the chance to boost their pensions through investment while they were out of work.

Non-working housewives, will as now be entitled to half the basic state pension, irrespective of whether they have ever worked. Those in employment will also have the right to a separate pension fund.

Mr Lilley also announced tax relief changes. Payments to pension funds will no longer be tax deductible but no tax will be levied on the pension once it has built up.

Mr Major said the reforms were a fine example of Conservative thinking. "It is a reform that reflects the best traditions of this Government's philosophy. It is dealing with the long-term issues, in a far-sighted way."

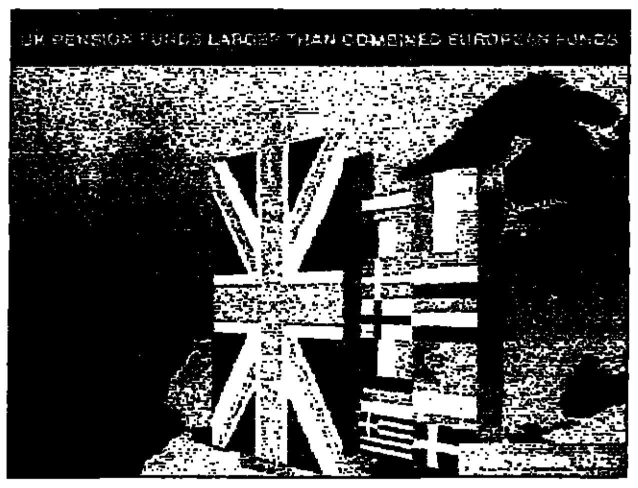
Leading article, page 19

Idea's time had come

THE Tories' biggest manifesto idea so far took shape as Peter Lilley relaxed at his French holiday home last year (Philip Webster writes). He had heralded plans for overall pension reform in his Mais lecture of 1993, but with his long-time special adviser Peter Barnes felt that other aspects must come first.

Back from France, Mr Lilley, influenced by his study of the Chilean system, bounced his ideas off David Willetts and Danny Finkelstein, both former heads of think tanks that had examined pensions.

Around the turn of the year Mr Lilley took his proposals to the Prime Minister. Secrecy was paramount — there was a history of leaks on social security matters. A handful of ministers were told but not until Tuesday was the reform discussed by the Cabinet's home affairs committee.


UK PENSION FUNDS LARGER THAN COMBINED EUROPEAN FUNDS

Providers' role will be vastly expanded

THE INDUSTRY

By Sara McConnell

THE fortunes of Britain's 20 million personal pension holders lie in the hands of life companies, banks and building societies. Between them, they manage contributions worth an estimated £6 billion.

The Government's proposals mean a hugely expanded role for such private sector companies. For the first time, they will be responsible for investing basic state pensions on behalf of all eligible people as well as earnings-related and top-up contributions.

But the industry has come under fierce attack from consumer groups and others for selling expensive and complex pension plans that perform poorly and provide an inadequate fund at the end. The Consumers' Association recently described most personal pension policies as a rip-off and said people should put their money into other investments. According to research by Bacon & Woodrow, the independent actuary, the difference between the best performing personal pension and the worst last year was more than 13 per cent a year.

The industry's reputation has been severely damaged by the continuing scandal of mis-selling of personal pensions. An estimated 558,000 people were encouraged to leave company schemes in favour of less advantageous personal pensions.

Schemes will be vetted and listed

REGULATION

By Sara McConnell

CITY regulators are to have an expanded role in keeping a list of approved pension schemes deemed fit to accept money from the public.

The main responsibility will rest with the Personal Investment Authority, which regulates most life companies, banks, building societies and financial advisers selling pensions. But regulators have a patchy record of protecting the public. They have been accused of leniency with the companies they are supposed to be monitoring and slowness to react when scandals surface.

The Securities and Investments Board and the PIA, its junior partner, are still trying to contain the fallout from the pension mis-selling scandal in which more than 500,000 people were wrongly advised to withdraw from their employer's scheme and take out personal pensions. It took regulators nearly four years to ban such transfers. It took nearly another year before SIB decided the structure of an industry-wide review of cases of possible mis-selling. Very few people have been compensated, and victims are bypassing the review and going to court.

SIB has decided not to investigate claims that many people on low incomes were advised to opt out of Serps into personal pensions. Many would have been better off with the state scheme.

Labour's reaction is depressing kneejerk politics at its worst

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

John Major yesterday produced the first Big Idea of the 1997 campaign, and an original and farsighted one it is too. Of course, there are many questions and loose ends. But the boldness of the *Basic Pension Plus* plan — devised by Peter Lilley, like many of the Government's most radical proposals — contrasts with Labour's caution on policy.

The initiative offers an interesting and attractive long-term solution to the steadily rising cost of providing pensions for an ageing population. It involves extending the principle that, while the State should remain responsible for guaranteeing that everyone has a minimum income on retirement, there is no reason why a pension cannot be provided by the private sector. This already happens with second pensions for those opting out of Serps. The Government will, however, have to offer more reassurance about the management of such private funds after the controversy over mis-selling of personal pension schemes and worries over high administrative costs.

Moreover, a funded scheme offers the probability of a higher pension than merely inflation-proofing a fixed cash sum. This should ensure that pensioners are better off unless you take an extraordinarily pessimistic view about long-term investment returns. In that case, public sector finances would probably be so bad than any pension guarantee would have to be broken.

Shifting from a pay-as-you-go to a funded basis inevitably involves transitional costs as some younger taxpayers both pay for existing pensions and their own provision. The very long phasing-in period and the end of tax relief for pension contributions reduces the additional cost. The total net cost will rise to nearly £7 billion a year by 2040. This is smaller than the current Serps rebates and the costs over 40 years are a fraction of the rise in tax revenues that occurs as a result of a growing economy.

Gordon Brown sounded affronted yesterday at the very suggestion of a proposal that might cost money, even over 40 years. He is perhaps entitled to a few moments of outrage given the extravagant and exaggerated Tory charges he has had to face in recent months about alleged Labour spending commitments. But his talk of the "huge" implications for spending and tax rises is wildly over the top. Moreover, he knows that any long-term solution involves additional spending for a time.

Labour's reaction was a depressing example of knee-jerk opposition politics at its worst. Several of its claims were either wrong or alarmist. Harriet Harman's comment about the abolition of the basic state pension is misleading since after 2040 the state will still guarantee an inflation-proofed pension. References to denial of security and choice are grossly misleading, while saying people will be forced into private provision and pejorative references to "privatisation" are hardly "new" Labour. The party's strategists have decided to play short-term electoral politics, ignoring the fact that if Labour wins the election it will face exactly the same dilemmas and will have to shift provision more to the private sector.

Of course, the Tories are also playing an electoral game. As Labour complained, announcing the proposals in the pre-election period is hardly the best way to secure a cross-party consensus. But the plan is a rare example of a government being willing to think long-term, even though there are no obvious short-term financial or political benefits. The likely gainers will not even start to retire for at least 40 to 45 years. The Tories intend to pitch their appeal to parents — "we are going to look after your children and their pensions". Labour's scare campaign — "you cannot trust the Tories with your pension" — may, however, be more effective. But it is paradoxical that the most adventurous policy ideas are coming from a party which has been in government for 18 years, while the Opposition prefers a safety-first approach.

PETER RIDDELL

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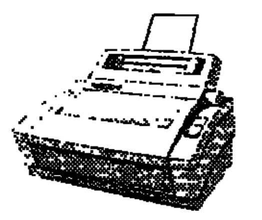
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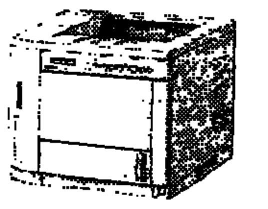
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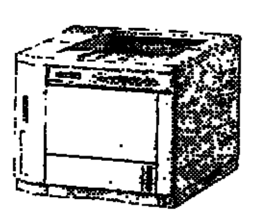
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Tories inspired by dictatorship close to economic ruin

By Arthur Leathley, Anne Ashworth and Gabriella Gamini

CHILEAN MODEL

A PRIVATE pension scheme introduced under a Latin American dictator as his country faced economic ruin is the inspiration behind the Government's package of radical reforms.

The Chilean model of pension provision, introduced under General Pinochet's military regime, has prompted the world's politicians to beat a path to Santiago to discover how — and whether — the system works.

Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, has held talks with José Pinera, the economist and former Chilean minister who founded Chile's revolutionary system.

Dr Pinera visited Britain last year to outline his plans to politicians intrigued by the apparent success of a scheme that has dramatically reduced Chile's social security deficit and is expected to wipe it out in 30 years.

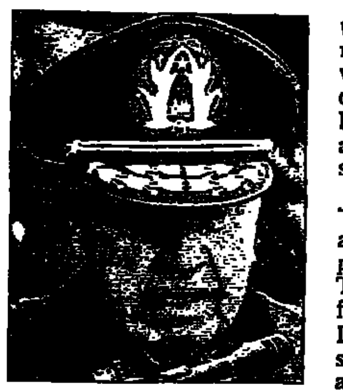
Chile privatised its pension system in 1980, replacing a near-bankrupt state scheme with individual retirement accounts. Workers are required to pay 10 per cent of their earnings into one of 18 funds. These funds control about £12 million, equivalent to nearly half of Chile's gross domestic market.

The system has already been copied by other Latin American countries. Argentina, Peru and Colombia have introduced similar schemes, with others such as Mexico and El Salvador in the process of setting up the system. In these countries however, it is optional for workers to join private pensions funds.

Among the most recent political visitors to Chile was a group of British MPs from the Social Security Select Committee which is investigating the success of the scheme.

Frank Field, the committee's Labour chairman and a close confidant of Tony Blair, is attracted to the idea of making people responsible for their own pension commitments. But he was struck by the dangers inherent in the Chilean system in which a person's pension is not underwritten by the State and in which many of the poorest workers are excluded from the scheme. Two out of five people are ineligible, many of them the poorest workers.

"It would be far more sensible to minimise these risks — of capital markets performing badly or of taxpayers not wanting to meet too large a pension bill — by combining the best of existing systems. This would give us the certainty of a state pension on a pay-as-you-go basis plus a second funded pension for everybody.


Pinochet: privatised pensions in 1980

Whatever the assurances, the poor will be left dependent on Government charity."

Mr Field is more persuaded by an Argentinian model in which workers can contribute to group pension schemes run by trade unions or other organisations, which offer greater security.

There has been criticism of the Chilean scheme based on its overdependence on the local economy, the local stock market and the soaring cost of running the funds. A survey last year showed that there was widespread misunderstanding about the scheme. There is also some dissatisfaction that the military was entitled to remain in the old state scheme, as they insisted that their payroll details should remain secret.

Other British politicians taking a close interest in the Chilean model are more convinced of its advantages. Last year Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Tory MP for Cirencester, floated proposals very similar to those unveiled yesterday by Mr Lilley.

Madsen Pirie, president of the Adam Smith Institute, the right-wing Tory think-tank, was quick yesterday to point out several key differences between Mr Lilley's proposals and the Chilean pensions system.

Chile made the change "overnight", while the Tories are proposing phasing the plans in over a period of time. The Chilean scheme also offered no guarantee on returns, Dr Pirie said, while the Conservatives' plan would guarantee that participants would receive at least their basic pension.

Industry's poor record is a cause for alarm

By Anne Ashworth
Personal Finance Editor

ANALYSIS

IT WAS a relief to hear politicians at last facing up to the inadequacies of the state pension system and encouraging people to make proper provision for their declining years.

Few of us are saving enough for our old age. The announcement of the Government's plans coincided with a report showing that only 0.5 per cent of those with personal pensions contributed the maximum allowed.

It was alarming, however, to hear that billions of pounds in savings were to be placed in the care of an industry with a record for both abusing the public's trust and charging exorbitant sums for its services, with no guarantee of superior performance. The life insurance industry has settled only a tiny portion of the £4 billion compensation due to those wrongly advised in the late Eighties to leave company pension schemes with guaranteed benefits for poor-value personal pension plans.

It has behaved dishonourably to thousands of the low-paid workers who have opted out of the state earnings related pension scheme since 1988. Those who leave Serps receive a National Insurance rebate which is paid into their personal pension but the high life insurance company administration and commission charges deducted rebates can leave little left to be invested.

Few insurers advised these employees that they should be making contributions in addition to the rebate, allowing them to labour under the cruel delusion that they could expect a handsome pension. Salesmen encouraged workers in their forties to leave Serps, although it is accepted that those in middle life should rejoin the state scheme.

The Government seems convinced that its plans will not mean a repeat of the personal pension scandal, believing that life insurers have learnt their lesson. The Prime Minister also expressed the view that costs would be "markedly lower than for existing schemes".

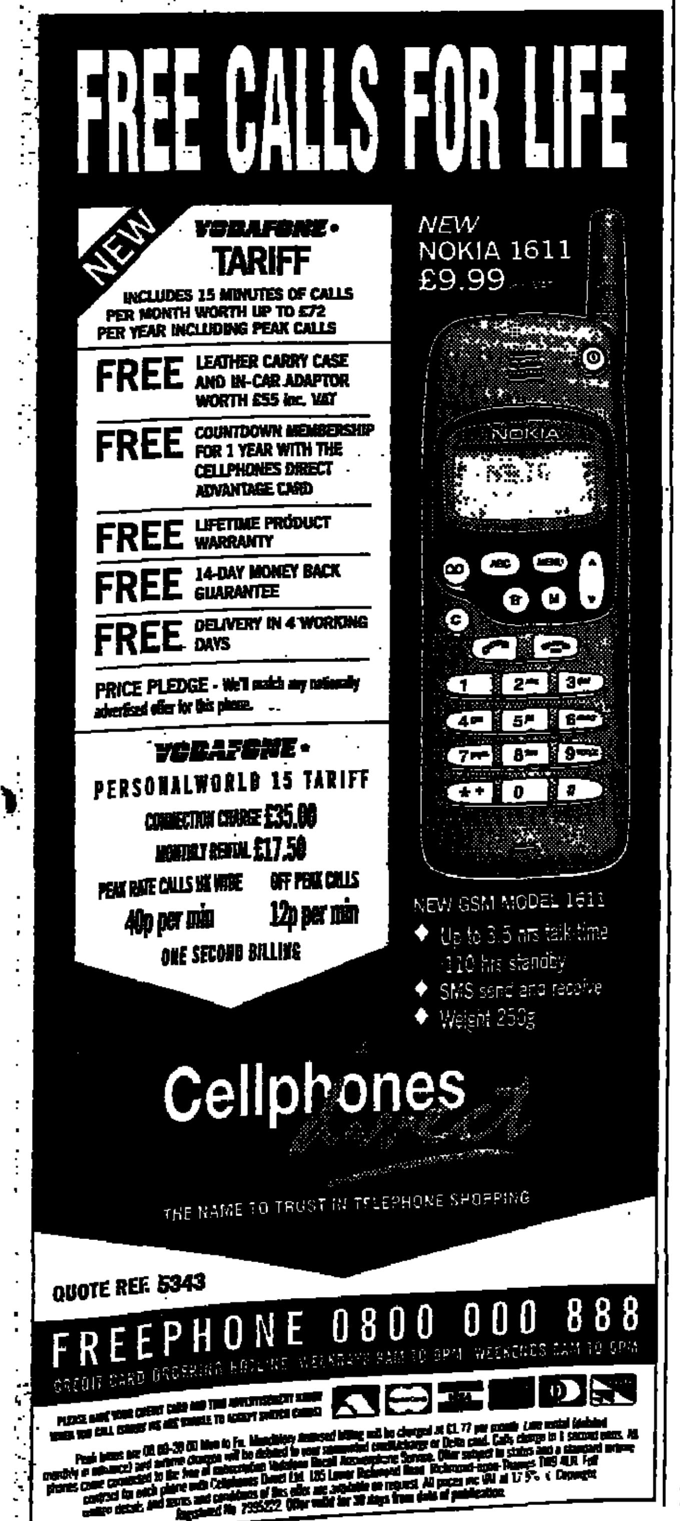
Eager at the prospect of so much new business, the life insurers were anxious to show that they had turned over a new leaf, reassuring everyone in earshot that charges for these plans would be cut to the bone.

The belief that costs will be lower is based on the elimination of the unfortunate salesman and his fat commission reward. The argument runs that since everyone will be obliged to have a new Basic Pension Plus, nobody will be required to sell them.

Experts were, however, sceptical about this claim. As one analyst put it: 'You may not need anyone to sell these new pensions, but you will certainly need someone to provide advice on which fund to choose. In America, where pensions were reformed a decade ago, problems have arisen because financially unsophisticated workers made the wrong choice of fund. If life insurance companies provide advice, then this will raise their costs. If they don't provide advice, who will?"

Ministers also made much of the role that the investment watchdogs will play to ensure that our savings are kept from harm. This is another cause for scepticism. The investor watchdog bodies presided over the personal pension scandal, and have so far failed to ensure that the victims receive their redress or punish the worst culprits.

For those weary of waiting for their compensation, the Government's proposals may have an unexpected beneficial side-effect. The watchdog organisations will compile a list of insurers who will be entitled to invest Basic Pension Plus contributions. Companies will not wish to be excluded from this list and so should have an incentive to settle their compensation liabilities forthwith.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The first state pensioners received at most five shillings a week and had to be over 70

Liberals copied German model

By Alan Hamilton

CREDIT for the invention of the old-age pension in Britain must go to David Lloyd George, who as Liberal Chancellor introduced the first scheme in his 1908 Budget. The first state pensioners queued for their handouts at post offices on New Year's Day, 1909.

Revolutionary it may have been, based on early welfare state experiments by Bismarck in the Germany of the 1880s, but generous it was not. Recipients had to be at least 70 years old, and the scheme was means-tested to exclude anyone earning more than £31 a year. Even then, the maximum weekly payout was a niggardly five shillings (25p), which even at the money values of the time was no more than a last-resort safety net for the very poor.

In the 19th and earlier centuries, pensions were the privilege of the fortunate few, either from meritorious military service or from long attachment to a well-disposed employer. Many of the giants of the present-day personal pensions industry have their origins in the early 19th century: Scottish Widows was founded in 1815 to provide pensions for women who had lost their menfolk in the Napoleonic wars, but what were being sold were essentially life insurance policies.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

☐ **Who would the new arrangements affect?**
Those in their early twenties and those yet to start work. The Government has reiterated that the new proposals would not affect the rest of the working population and existing pensioners.

☐ **How would the Basic Pension Plus interact with company pension schemes and personal pensions?**
The Government would pay everybody a £9 rebate in lieu of the basic pension and a 5 per cent rebate in lieu of Serps. These rebates can be paid into a personal plan or company plan. About 12 million employees are currently in company pension schemes.

☐ **Would Basic Pension Plus be any different from the pensions offered today?**
Tax relief on pension contributions will be scrapped — eventually saving the Government £8 billion annually. These savings will go towards paying the pensions of those not under the new arrangements. The Government claims that when the new pension is paid at retirement it will be entirely free from tax. Now only a lump sum received at retirement is tax-free. Only pensions that exceed yet-to-be-defined limits will be taxed. Despite the £8 billion anticipated savings, the Government estimates a further £8 billion will be needed for pensions for those who will not come under the new proposals.

☐ **How will the public know which company to choose to look after their pensions?**
The Personal Investment Authority, the chief retail regulator, is planning to draw up a list of recommended providers. The Government claims the PIA will monitor the activities of these providers closely. Keeping costs down will be particularly important.

Brown to stay on cautious route

LABOUR

By Jill Sherman

GORDON BROWN, the Shadow Chancellor, yesterday made clear that a Labour government would not adopt the Tories' pension plans, on grounds of risk and cost.

The party will stick to its more cautious plan to supplement, rather than replace, the basic state pension with a second "stakeholder" pension which individuals can build up in private schemes. Last year Tony Blair dropped the costly pledge to raise pensions by £5 a week which John Smith, as Shadow Chancellor, had made at the 1992 general election. He ignored an expensive plan proposal from the Social Justice Commission, set up by Labour when Mr Smith was leader, for a minimum guaranteed pension more generous than the state pension.

Under Labour's latest plan, still at a consultative stage, pensioners would remain entitled to the basic state pension, linked with inflation, but younger people without occupational pensions would be encouraged to pay into a second pension. The government would still transfer the 4.8 per cent of earnings currently paid into occupational schemes for those contracting out of Serps, but pay out no additional rebate. Only schemes approved by an independent regulator could be used for the stakeholder pension.

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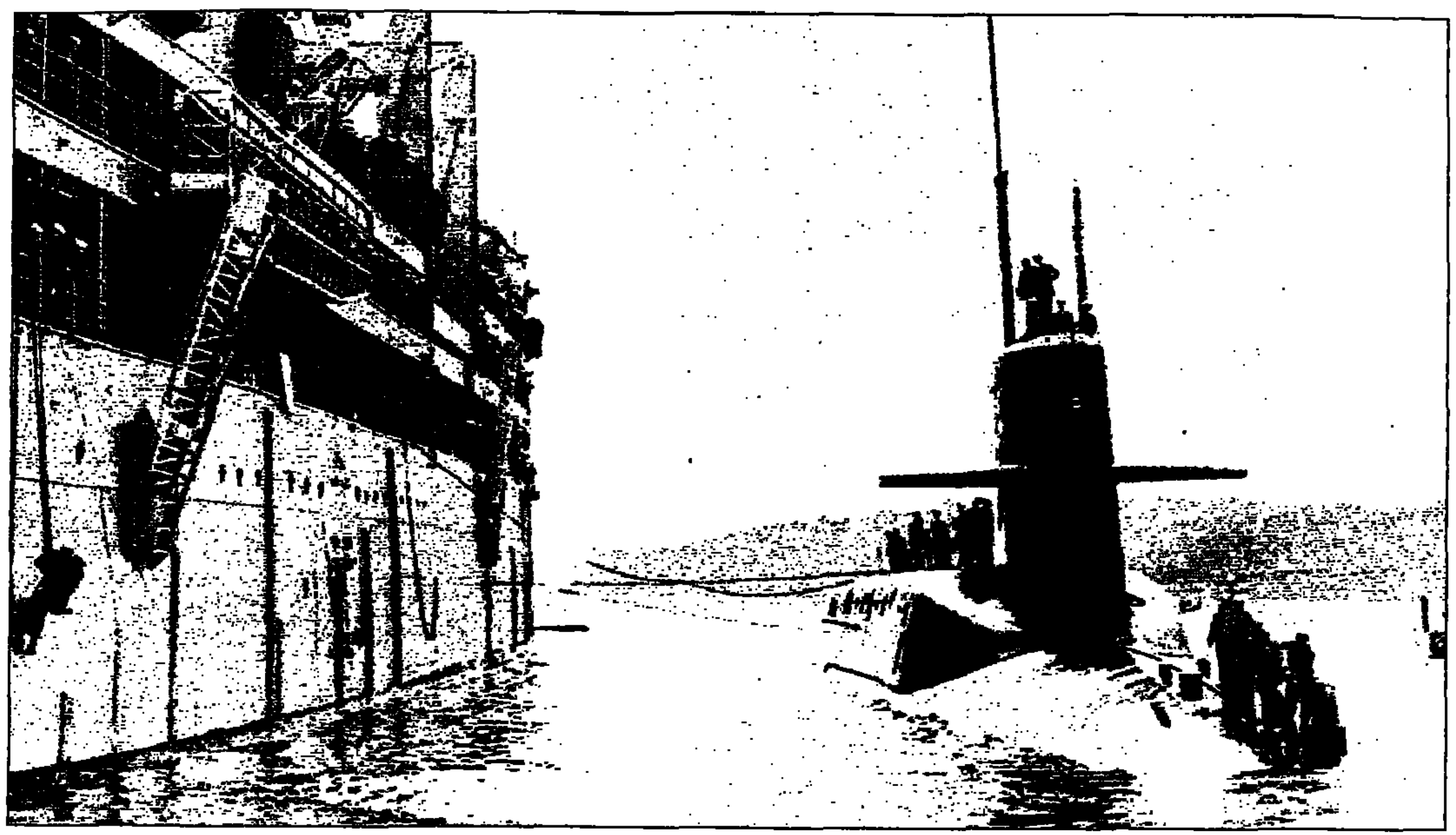
Surveys find former submarine base on Clyde is among the dirtiest estuaries in world

US navy left Holy Loch polluted by toxic waste

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT



The US submarine *Patrick Henry* alongside a support vessel in Holy Loch. The base closed in 1992, after more than 30 years' service

SURVEYS have shown that Holy Loch in Scotland is contaminated with dangerously high levels of toxic waste and littered with junk after the closure of the US Navy's nuclear submarines base on the Clyde.

Ministry of Defence studies reveal that concentrations of heavy metals, hazardous transformer fluids and other toxic chemicals are so high that many break European environmental safety limits. The levels of contaminants in the muds are so high that Holy Loch, used by the Americans from 1961 to 1992, has become Britain's dirtiest estuary and one of the world's filthiest stretches of coastal water.

Almost a quarter of the loch floor is strewn with rubbish, including girders, oil drums, washing machines and air ducts. A clean-up is planned by the Royal Navy and the local authority, but there are fears that disturbing the mud may release even more contaminants into the water.

The Americans used Holy Loch as a base for servicing and refitting up to ten nuclear-powered submarines. Hundreds of servicemen were stationed there.

The level of contamination is shown by comparing the maximum concentration of nickel found elsewhere in British estuaries — 58 milligrams per kilogram of sediment — with Holy Loch, where concentrations reach 326mg. There are similar readings for zinc, chromium, and copper.

The surveys did not check for radioactivity. But one sample did find levels of a known carcinogen, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, at six times the safe limit.

The findings have come from two reports, produced by Environmental Resources Management, a consultancy based in Edinburgh, for the MoD and backed up by an underwater video survey carried out by the MoD in 1996.

Under Nato agreements, Britain is obliged to clean up the Americans' mess. The MoD, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and the Argyll and Bute council are planning to remove the iron wastes using a crane and large electromagnet.

But Graham Shimmield, director of the government-funded Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory near Oban, fears the clean-up will disturb the muds, causing high concentrations of toxins to be released into the water.

Dr Shimmield is also concerned that the level of contaminants may be far higher than shown by the surveys. They took samples from deep layers of mud rather than the higher layers, which may be even more heavily polluted.

Holy Loch has a population of sea trout and salmon which may be vulnerable to pollution released from the muds during the clean-up, which is to begin in the autumn. Contaminated silt could also be washed ashore and come into contact with people, Dr Shimmield said.

He fears the operation, in which piles of metal in some cases six metres high will be removed, might also disturb containers of the toxic anti-fouling chemical, tributyl tin. He met the MoD earlier this week to discuss the extent of the operation and told *New Scientist* magazine: "The clean-up could cause more problems than it solves."

An MoD spokesman said the clean-up, which is required under European law before the loch can be handed on to a civilian company, Clyde Ports, was designed to minimise mud disturbance. He said concentrations of metals and other substances in the mud could not blamed on US Navy operations, which ceased in 1992.

He said pollution had been carried from the upper to the lower Clyde for hundreds of years into Holy Loch. But he admitted that only the Americans knew what they had discharged. "The Americans know more than we do," he said.

Dr Shimmield said research over the past five years showed that heavy metals and organic compounds can behave in "fairly unpredictable ways" once disturbed. The marine life most at risk was likely to be oysters, mussels and other shellfish, which were eaten by people.

He said that the MoD had agreed to monitor the marine environment during the clean-up and had promised to stop if any harm was caused.

Dr Shimmield said environmentalists who argued that waste must be removed at any cost should appreciate the potential dangers. "We need sound science to assess the risk rather than acting from the heart," he said.

Emerald Isle may harbour real gems

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

EVIDENCE of diamonds and sapphires has been discovered in northwest Ireland. Cambridge Mineral Resources believes it will find large numbers of the precious stones in the northern part of the the Inishowen peninsula, a sparsely populated area of Donegal.

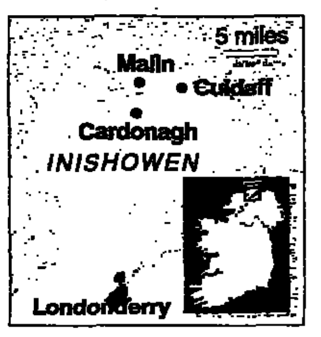
The company, which is to launch on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange on Friday, found the traces ten days ago after it was granted Ireland's first diamond-prospecting licence last August.

David Bramhill, managing director of CMR, which is valued at £3.5 million, said he was "very excited" at the initial results. But he said news of the discovery had nothing to do with the floation. "This discovery was made as we prepared for our stock market launch. It is a very good coincidence," he said.

"We were legally and morally obliged to issue our findings. These shares are absolutely high risk. They are only for people with a lot of disposable income who can take a risk. Nothing is guaranteed."

CMR, which also operates in Sweden and Spain, became interested in Ireland when it emerged that a area of sapphire-laden rock in Scotland stretched into Donegal. The 20 million-year-old rock contains kimberlitic and lamproitic minerals — substances common to all areas where diamond and sapphires are found. Diamond is an older version of sapphire.

Next month a team of six geologists working with a budget of £150.000 will begin a more detailed study of the rock and minerals.



Cleaner Don tempts back the otter

PAUL WILKINSON

AN OTTER has been sighted in a once highly polluted water system for the first time in almost quarter of a century.

Naturalists have reported seeing the creature and its tracks on the banks of a tributary of the River Don, which runs through the former steel and coal industry sprawl of south Yorkshire.

"This is cracking news," said Peter Bowler of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. "It shows that conditions along the river system are improving and wildlife is returning." An otter was last seen in the region in 1973, at Thorn Waste, an area of flatlands close to the River Ouse. But that is almost 20 miles from the latest sighting and away from the region's industrial heartland.

The Don was once notorious for having one of the worst polluted tributaries, the Rother, in the country. It had been contaminated by industrial workings and seepage from a dump for environmentally hazardous waste.

Mr Bowler said the return indicated rapid improvements: "Only five years ago the Don was still unable to support the kind of coarse fish like perch, roach and tench which the otter can feed on.

"But it is not so much the water quality as the state of the banks. Otters like to lie quietly during the day in scrubby undergrowth like brambles or rosebay willowherb. Until recently much of the riverbank was controlled by collieries and other heavy industry and this sort of habitat just did not exist. Our task now is to encourage it to stay. We will be talking to landowners and local councils with a view to developing bankside habitat."

Otters were once a regular sight on the county's waterways. The name of Attercliffe, a district of Sheffield, is a corruption of otter and the neighbouring area of Salmon Fields indicates their likely prey.

Environmentalists say the south Yorkshire otter will have come from groups active more than 40 miles away either to the north along the River Derwent in North Yorkshire or south from the river networks of Nottinghamshire.

Chicks give virility the bird

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

FEMALE birds have emasculated their male companions by preferring those without a penis, according to two biologists. Once nearly all male birds had a penis but today only a small minority do.

The experts say that females have systematically favoured the underendowed because it gives them greater control over reproduction. Birds mate through the "cloacal kiss", in which the male deposits sperm from his cloaca, or pelvic cavity, on his partner's. The female draws up the sperm, storing it until she is ready to lay eggs.

Females produce the best offspring by accepting only the best sperm. Although they can reject eggs that have been fertilised, this is wasteful. A better strategy is to draw up sperm only from favoured males, which is much easier if they lack a penis and cannot inject directly into the female.

Dr James Briskie, of Oxford University, and Dr Robert Montgomerie, of Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, say that birds have lost their penises over many thousands of generations because of this selection by females.

So why do a few species, including the ostrich and large aquatic birds such as geese, retain the penis? In these species, argue the biologists, whose work is reported in *New Scientist*, the egg is small in relation to the size of the bird, so the female can dump fertilised eggs at relatively little metabolic cost. She does not have to make the decision until after the males have had their way with her.

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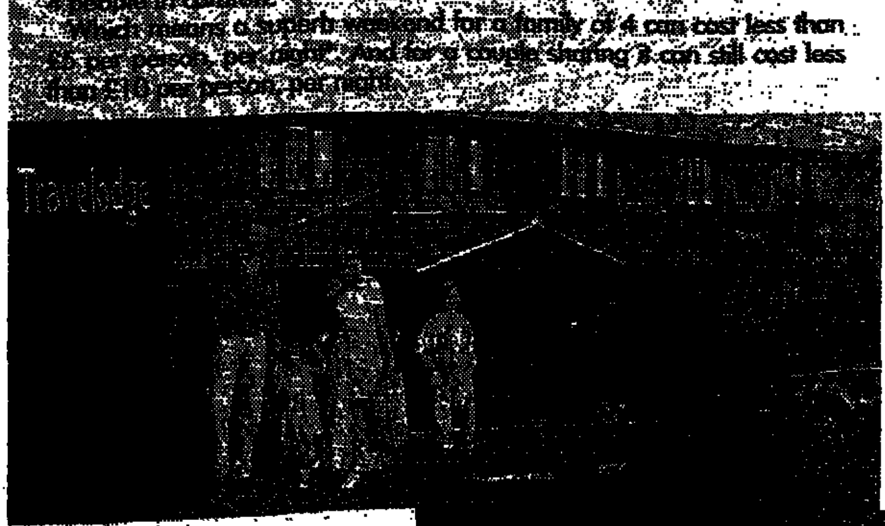

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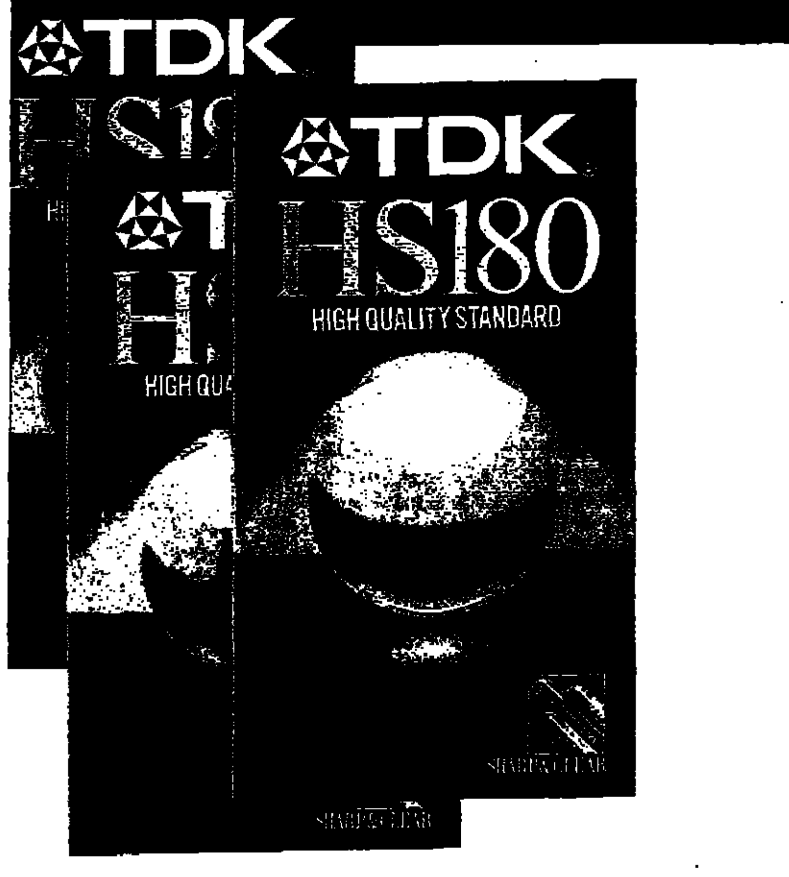

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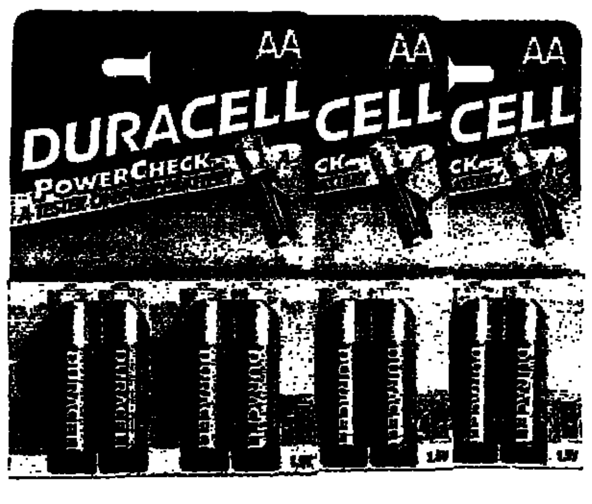

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Tirana moderate calls for broad-based government coalition to end growing spiral of violence

Opposition accuses Britain of giving lifeline to Berisha

From Richard Owen in Tirana

AS ALBANIA descended further into outright civil war yesterday, a leading member of the Albanian Opposition accused Britain of "having given Berisha enough oxygen to become a dictator".

Neritan Ceka, leader of the Democratic Alliance and a potential successor should President Berisha fall, said "whereas some Western countries, such as Italy and the United States, have put serious pressure on Berisha to form a broad-based coalition to solve the national crisis, the British Government has largely supported him".

He said "certain forces on the right wing of the Conservative Party" seemed prepared to back Mr Berisha even when he used the feared secret police to enforce a state of emergency. "I regret to say the same is true of some sections of Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democratic party in Bonn," he told *The Times* in an interview.

"It is high time Britain and Germany cut off his air supply." He applauded Washington's strong condemnation this week of Mr Berisha's state of emergency and his "stifling of free expression".

Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, said yesterday that, if a "broad-based government" was established in Tirana, Italy would be ready to send troops to help to restore order. He told *La Repubblica* the only way forward lay through an interim coalition involving both members of Mr Berisha's Democratic Party and the Opposition, followed by "fair elections" within 45 days.

Signor Dini rejected Mr Berisha's charge that the revolt had been instigated by "Red terrorists", saying it was clearly a "spontaneous rebellion of the people". He added: "Italy is prepared to send financial and technical aid to help an economic recovery."

Italy, only 40 miles across the Adriatic from Albania, fears a repetition of the exodus of desperate Albanians which followed the collapse of the Communist regime in 1991.

Western diplomats in Tirana said that, as the Government increasingly lost control of the situation, the search was on for "credible" figures who might serve in an interim administration and even form a new government.

Mr Ceka, a dapper, silver-haired archaeologist and political moderate, is regarded as a respected figure acceptable to Right and Left. His Democratic Alliance is a breakaway group from the ruling Democratic Party and was formed by former Berisha loyalists. They gave a warning after Mr Berisha's landslide election victory in 1992 that the Democratic Party was becoming as monolithic as the Communist Party it replaced.

"This armed uprising could be ended tomorrow if Berisha agreed to a cross-party coalition," Mr Ceka said. He agreed there were mafia gunmen, criminals and provocateurs among the rebels, "but most are ordinary people who blame Berisha for the collapse of the pyramid funds and want him out. He has become an outright dictator. If he agreed to a government which included the Opposition, I guarantee that people would lay down their guns."

The Democratic Alliance is one of 11 parties in the Forum for Democracy formed last month in response to the crisis. Its chairman is Kurd Kola, a respected former political prisoner under the Enver Hoxha regime. He is also seen as a potential leader.

Another opposition contender for power is Fatos Nano, the former Socialist (ex-Communist) leader jailed by Mr Berisha in 1994 for 12 years on charges of corruption. His cause has been taken up by Amnesty International and the Left has dubbed him the "Nelson Mandela of Albania".

Many Albanians, however, remain distrustful of the Socialists, who form the core of the Forum for Democracy, since they include some unrepentant Communist militants. Mr Ceka said he firmly believed that if the Socialists gained power they would work with centrists such as himself in the Forum. "But the first priority is an interim government of all parties to restore order."

An Italian soldier guards the old MiG15 flown by two defecting Albanian pilots. Tirana denied their claim that they were told to shoot at civilians

Desperate nation hangs on BBC's treasured words

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

THREE times a day, amid rioting, tension and lawlessness, Albania's city streets fall still: the nation is listening to the BBC. Virtually the sole source of news commanding the trust of Government and Opposition, the demonstrators and the desperate, is the Albanian service beamed on short wave from Bush House.

Never has the BBC's credibility been so urgently tested. President Berisha has accused it of stirring up violence. The local FM transmitter was switched off after the declaration of emergency, and secret police threatened journalists. Phones have been bugged and cut. Freelance reporters, fearing for their lives, have been urged by London to stay indoors.

Yet every politician, every faction, hangs on London's words and is clamouring to make its voice heard. "Tell him we don't broadcast declarations," Tim Cooke, the Albanian service head, called across the room yesterday to a broadcaster being harangued down the phone line by an ethnic Greek Albanian MP. "We can interview him."

The British newspaper editorials had just been translated and transmitted, together with the interview by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, on the Radio 4 *Today* programme. A few minutes later Namek Dokle, one of the Socialist (former Communist) leaders was on the line, trying to put his view.

The Albanian service, started four years ago after a break of 25 years, is manned by eight Albanian staff. Their families back home are receiving death threats. No one has slept more than a few hours this past week.

As the plug was pulled in Albania, short-wave broadcasts began transmission from London and Cyprus; one 30-minute broadcast has been given an extra 15 minutes, and Mr Cooke hopes the other two will be 45 minutes soon. President Berisha, irritated by unprecedented questioning of his Democratic Party programme, has little time for the BBC; for three years he has refused to give it an interview.

Mr Cooke is bitter at the pressure being put on his correspondents. But he does not doubt their influence. As the Democratic Party held a crisis meeting three weeks ago on whether Aleksander Meksi should resign, the Prime Minister kept slipping away. He was calling the BBC correspondent to find out what was happening in Vlore.

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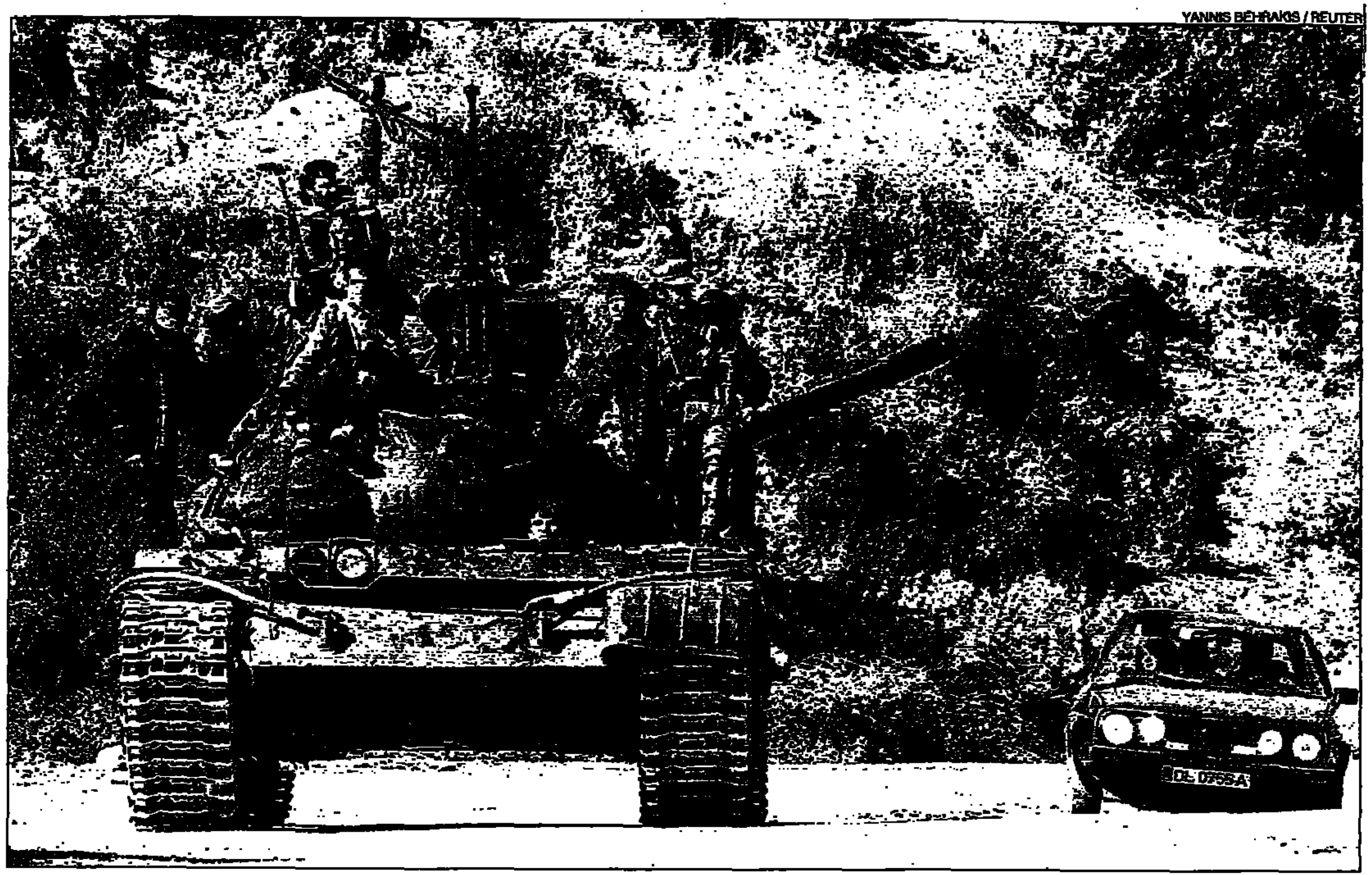
Jets seen dropping bombs on village but defence officials deny orders to hit civilian targets

Rebel barricades go up in south as army advances

Albanian tanks, dispatched by President Berisha to rip into the heartland of the uprising, will face spirited resistance, **Tom Walker** reports from Tirana


YANNIS BEHRAKIS / REUTER

Albanian rebels brandish their guns from the top of a seized army tank in the hills close to the southern town of Sarande yesterday

THE state of emergency tightened in Albania yesterday as fighting appeared to intensify in the south and the Government rejected all offers of foreign mediation.

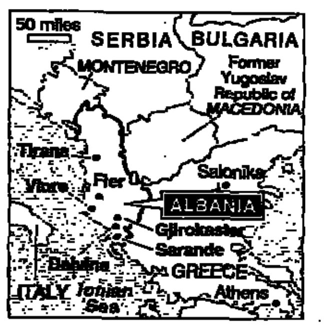
Telephone lines south of Tirana were cut, but accounts *filtered in* during the afternoon of tanks speeding towards the port town of Sarande, north of the Greek border. Journalists said they had *seen* Chinese-made MiG15 jets drop a bomb next to two houses in the village of Livina, near Sarande, and the smoke from two more bombs. About 400 families, most belonging to Albania's ethnic Greek minority, live in the village.

The Defence Ministry yesterday denied claims by two MiG *pilots* who defected to Italy on Tuesday that they had flown there rather than obey orders to fire on a column of civilian vehicles near Gjirokaster. "This is totally untrue," a ministry statement said. It said the pilots had been on a reconnaissance mission.

A journalist with the Greek television station Antenne said rebels *had built* barricades outside Sarande and had organised regular street patrols. Near Sarande, armed gangs seized an army tank from its crew and drove it gleefully through the streets.

Clashes with government troops were reported near Delvine, halfway between Sarande and Gjirokaster, which is now the main base for the Albanian Army in the rebel-controlled south. Injuries were rumoured, but Greek television said the fighting had stopped as rebels abandoned a plan to march on Gjirokaster. Four villagers and at least two soldiers were reportedly wounded in fighting six miles east of Sarande.

Further north, towards the capital, rebels were said to have blown up a road bridge near Fier, in a desperate attempt to stop more army tanks reaching Vlore and Sarande. The Government was said to be *considering* shipping tanks south to avoid similar guerrilla attacks.



An Albanian Red Cross convoy was allowed to take antibiotics, blood and surgical materials to Vlore hospital. "Vlore is also Albania. You have to make a distinction between the population and the terrorists," said Tritan Shehu, the Foreign Minister.

Albanian state television cancelled its main afternoon news bulletin, and with anxiety spreading in the capital many opposition politicians and journalists were in hiding. General Sheme Kosova, the Army Chief of Staff sacked on Tuesday, was said to be under *house arrest*.

European diplomatic sources confirmed that visits, scheduled for today, by the European Union's Dutch presidency and by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe had been postponed. They said President Berisha wished to complete his military clampdown *along the southern coastal belt* before considering any offers of foreign diplomatic intervention. The mood on Tirana's *streets was tense but calm.* Regular police and their leather-jacketed colleagues in the secret police, the Shik, were out in force. Any dissent met with a swift response. Four policemen set about a stallholder near the statue of Skanderbeg, the national hero, beating him semi-conscious. With blood pouring *from his ear, the man was* kicked into the back of a police Fiat Tipo and taken away.

The state security apparatus *moved up a gear, with telephones* monitored and cut regularly. Local and foreign media correspondents were followed. The locally relayed BBC broadcasts on FM remained off the air — although direct shortwave transmissions from London continued. No opposition papers were printed. "We have been told *through the government* papers that the souls of the dead in Vlore surround our offices," said one journalist *who had not been home for* four days. His family is also in hiding. "This is what you earn for telling the truth."

International pressure remains scarcely visible in Tirana, but International Monetary Fund sources were talking yesterday of halting a $27 million (£16.8 million) standby loan to Albania. For *Albanians themselves the civil* unrest is disastrous: in Vlore a loaf of bread now costs three times the price in Tirana. Government grain stores in Vlore were raided on Tuesday night, and municipal officials warned of *famine* conditions in the besieged town.

The Government blames the violence in the town on former army officers, who it said yesterday were under "the influence of communist and foreign insurgents". Mr Shehu urged a more conciliatory line than the President, imploring Albanians "to come together and protect the country". Commentators said the comments were unusually mild for Mr Shehu, who is regarded as a Berisha stalwart.

There was speculation that Tuesday's joint Italian-Albanian evacuation of journalists and civilians from Vlore was used as a dress rehearsal by the army for an assault on the port. A diplomatic source, however, was sceptical: "It's too clever a move for a stupid government."

Regime's German patronage puts paid to united European front

By James Pettifer

COMMENTARY

General Colin Powell, in a phrase counselling against Balkan involvement by modern mechanised armies, said: "We don't do mountains". His *dictum might have been tailor-made* for southern Albania. But President Berisha's forces are having to try.

With serious fighting in the Greek minority south of the country, the logistical and technical capacity of the Albanian Army is going to be tested to the limits in the next few days. There are, on paper, about 54,000 men in uniform, of whom 22,000 are conscripts. Most are in the army, with about 6,500 in the air force, and a *very small navy.*

There are many practical difficulties in the way of a quick and clean operation — as the seizure of a tank yesterday by rebels in Sarande showed — quite apart from the mass desertions from key southern barracks. Much of the country, even in the south, consists of precipitous mountains which offer perfect refuge for armed men, as the wartime partisan resistance demonstrated.

Supply lines may be a serious problem, as most fuel has either been stolen by the rebels or set on fire. Local barracks have been *gutted and any operation lasting* longer than a few days may mean troops having to live off the land, among a largely hostile population. Many ill-trained and badly motivated conscripts may vote with their feet, and go on the run into Greece.

Control of the roads is likely to be a key issue, with agents of the secret police, the Shik, now merged with Interior Ministry forces, a key Berisha weapon. They are nearly all loyal northerners, and owe their careers to the President.

How effective they will be outside Tirana remains to be seen. It is *unlikely that anything other than a* small proportion of the looted weapons will be recovered.

If the Albanian leaders had been hoping for support from Nato in the military action, they will have been disappointed by the strong statement from Javier Solana, the alliance's Secretary-General, yesterday, urging a diplomatic solution. After a London meeting, he said: "In Albania at the moment, politics has to be done; diplomacy has to be done. It is not for a military operation by Nato or anybody else."

Nato has interests in Albania which have gone largely unnoticed in the West. Between 1992 and 1995 the Albanian Defence Ministry in Tirana was full of uniformed US advisers, and the CIA took over Gjaider airbase, north of the capital, to fly unmanned observation drones over Serbia. There are US facilities on Sazan Island, in the Bay of Vlore, and listening posts on the borders near Serbia and Macedonia.

With the cooling of the American link, after the Clinton Administration saw major rights problems developing with the Berisha regime, Germany has become a key diplomatic and military supporter, seeking to build up Albania against Serbia. German advisers from the Konrad Adenauer Institute in Bonn were key architects of the Berisha re-election strategy last year, and the German metal giant Prussag has bought up Albania's chromium mines, its key industrial asset.

Many Albanian army officers have been trained in Germany, in the context of negotiations over re-*equipment. Germany has much* the most important outside stake in the survival of President Berisha, and EU efforts to develop a united response to the Albanian crisis have continually run up against German intransigence. There is clearly no chance of American or German military intervention.

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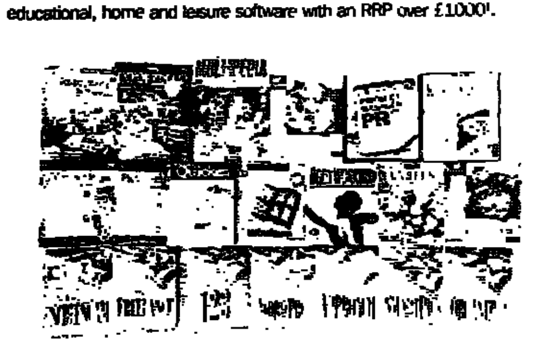

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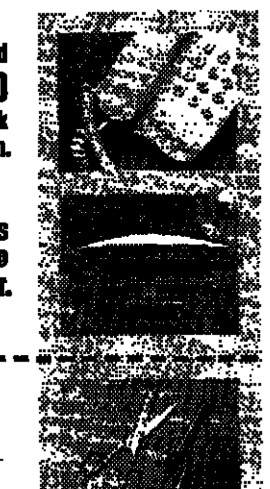

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Swiss plan a £3bn fund in memory of Holocaust victims

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

THE Swiss Government has offered to use about £3 billion of Switzerland's gold reserves for a "solidarity foundation" for victims of genocide and catastrophe worldwide.

The announcement was made by President Koller to a joint session of parliament yesterday in a speech on Switzerland's record during the Second World War.

He said the foundation was designed to prove the nation's gratitude for being spared two world wars and to show compassion for Holocaust victims. It must, however, be approved by parliament. "If we want to give new meaning to the sense of solidarity and to public spirit, then we must do ... something capable of easing today's and tomorrow's suffering," he said.

Although the Swiss appear to be assuaging international criticism of their wartime record with inquiries and compensation arrangements, the four-party collegial Government is facing a new battle at home. In an apparent change of mind, Mr Koller said that the national bank would also pay £45 million to a separate humanitarian fund for Holocaust victims, set up last week with Jewish groups. The three biggest Swiss banks have made a similar contribution. Until now the Government had insisted it would decide on payments once it had received a first set of findings from an independent commission of experts investigating Switzerland's dealings with the Nazis.

The commission has promised to deliver in June an account of Switzerland's wartime refugee policy and the national bank's gold trade with the Third Reich. Swiss historians expect some of the details to be "uncomfortable".

Mr Koller said that the Swiss owed it to themselves to accept their past as it was: "We should not be ashamed of being spared by the war: we had the right to survive." But he added: "Through a lack of courage, people arriving at our borders in great distress were sent to certain death. There, generosity would have been possible or necessary."

The foundation would take about two years to set up, although ministers want it to coincide if possible with next year's celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the founding of modern Switzerland.

The national bank said that the gold sales would take place over a period of ten years and would not disrupt world markets or the stability of the Swiss franc. The foundation is to be financed by valuation gains on gold reserves. By investing its start-up capital, the foundation would generate income of at least £100 million a year, allowing its work to last for decades.

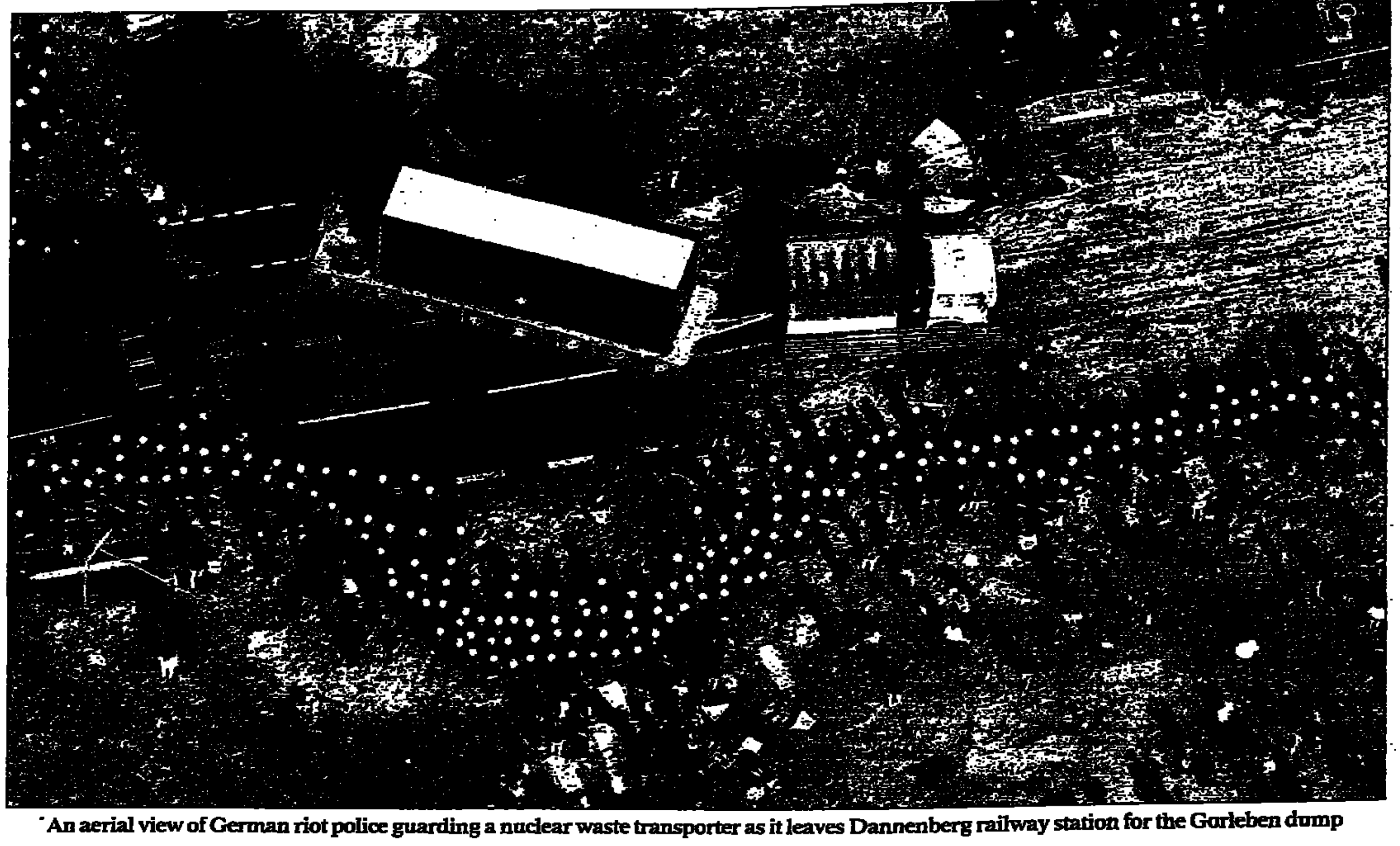
The proposal was welcomed by Israel and Jewish groups. But rightwingers, including the Swiss People's Party, one of the government parties, signalled their unhappiness with the presidential statement. Christoph Blocher, one of its leaders, said the Government had "lost its head". He accused ministers of giving in to foreign pressure. Mr Blocher, who successfully campaigned to keep Switzerland out of the European Union, said the Swiss should not use public funds to compensate for legitimate wartime trade with Germany.

Leading article, page 19

Israel cuts cash for survivor aid

Jerusalem: A row erupted yesterday over disclosure that the Israeli Government has cut funds for the only Israeli group providing emotional support for Holocaust survivors and their children from about £100,000 to £20,000 (Christopher Walker writes). "It is a shame and a disgrace," said Sheva Weiss of the opposition Labour Party.

WOLFGANG RATTAY / REUTER



An aerial view of German riot police guarding a nuclear waste transporter as it leaves Dannenberg railway station for the Gorleben dump

Beaten anti-nuclear 'army' prompts rethink

FROM ROGER BOYES IN GORLEBEN

THOUSANDS of German protesters reluctantly allowed a heavily guarded 700-tonne delivery of nuclear waste to end its 48-hour trek yesterday.

But they celebrated a kind of victory: by the day's end many mainstream German politicians, shocked by the resistance, agreed that this should be the last shipment to Gorleben. Petrol bombs again flew through the air and fireworks buzzed into police lines as protesters fought their last stand: the battle of the Quickborn road, a country lane cutting through potato and rape fields to the sad, blighted, north German village of Gorleben.

The 30,000 police were instructed to be on their best behaviour, the protesters had taken crash courses in non-violent demonstrating skills and 30 priests with megaphones and clipboards were signed up as mediators, but tension and fatigue combined to create flashpoints.

The largest display of civil force in Germany since the Second World War was answered by one of the most powerful exhibitions of civil disobedience for more than a decade. Scores of demonstrators were hurt, some suffering broken bones, when police broke up a crowd of about 4,000 squatting outside Dannenberg railway station early yesterday. They charged with batons and sluiced people with water but most were carried away in cradled arms.

The convoy — bulldozers, lorries with spotlights, lumbering water cannon machines and dozens of police vans accompanied the six nuclear canisters — had to travel about 12 miles from the railway station to Gorleben. A farm cart could have covered the distance in 90 minutes; yesterday — thanks to the delaying tactics — — it was a ten-hour obstacle course.

A home-made bomb was found on the route and, again and again, protesters moved in to hurl stones and bottles. Near Quickborn village, militants with masked faces set light to tyres and haystacks. Casualty and arrest figures were vague, even at the end of the day. Many hundreds of demonstrators found themselves detained briefly during the week of protest, yet almost all were free within hours.

The Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, Gerhard Schröder, told his regional parliament this should be the last such shipment to the Gorleben dump, although its storage hall is far from full. Social Democrats in Bonn quickly echoed his views. The Christian Democrat-led Government will also be forced to rethink its nuclear strategy. Policing cost more than £30 million.

Nato may keep Russia in the picture over Polish flights

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO is considering offering the Russians daily photographs of air defence activities in Poland once Warsaw joins the alliance, to help to convince Moscow that expansion of the organisation poses no threat.

Although Poland has not been officially invited to join Nato — that will happen in July at a summit in Madrid — Russia is continuing to warn alliance officials against moving military installations on to Polish territory.

One senior Nato source said the Russians were afraid that the "alliance planned to do to Poland what Russia did to Poland — move in tanks and heavy armour". In private negotiations with alliance officials, the Russians have emphasised their opposition to "Nato machinery" advancing into Poland. Nato has been trying to reassure Moscow that it is not the alliance's plan. "Nothing like that will happen," a Nato source said.

However, the Russians have been told that if Poland joins the alliance in 1999 as expected, there will be a move to set up an air defence system that will be compatible with the rest of Nato's military structure. One Nato source said: "The Russians are doing just the same with the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] countries and they understand the reasons why we need to have an air defence system in Poland."

However, as added reassurance, Nato plans confidence-building measures with the Russians. The most radical is a suggestion that Nato air defence activities in Poland could be photographed and the pictures handed to the Russians.

Letters, page 19

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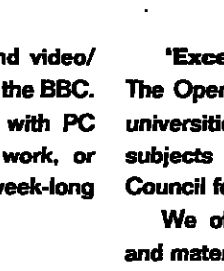

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Republicans wrongfooted by budget vote

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

DESPITE Republicans' glee at the whirlwind of allegations about questionable fundraising hanging over President Clinton, they suffered a heavy blow this week.

The Senate's rejection on Tuesday of the cornerstone of the Republican congressional agenda — the proposal to force the Government to balance its budget — has left the party's strategy in disarray and enormously complicated the job of the next Republican to make a run for the presidency in 2000.

The huge symbolic value of the budget deficit in the American public's mind is one of the phenomena of 1990s politics. No matter that eminent economists such as Joseph Stiglitz, former chairman of Mr Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers, have queued up in recent months to say that balanced budgets are not necessarily a good thing. Polls repeatedly show that voters interpret budget deficits as a sign that "big government" is out of control.

Regrouping after Mr Clinton's re-election in November, which nonetheless left Congress in Republican control, Republican leaders seized on balanced-budget proposals as a tool to bridge the party's gaping ideological divisions. The lesson they took from the election was that voters did not believe the promises of tax cuts spliced awkwardly into Bob Dole's campaign message. Instead, a promise to balance the budget appeared to give Republican economic policies the image of prudence that characterised the party's social policy.

At the start of the new Congress, Republican leaders announced that a balanced budget amendment would be the centrepiece of their agenda. It would insert into the Constitution a requirement that the federal Government should match its spending and its income in 2002 and every year thereafter, unless three fifths of each house of Congress waived the rule. The plan should have received an extra boost on Monday from the Congressional Budget Office, the non-partisan body that prepares independent budget forecasts, which strongly criticised Mr Clinton's 1998 budget, now under debate by Congress.

In the event, for the second time in two years, the amendment fell just one vote short of the two thirds majority needed to pass through the Senate. Republican strategists are asking wearily what went wrong.

In part, Democrat senators backed the argument that rewriting the Constitution was too clumsy a tool for fashioning economic policy and would reduce the Government's flexibility in coping with recession. But in the end, the decisive factor was the public's increasing fear, revealed in weekly polls, that social security and other government benefits might be cut in order to bring the books into balance.

Some Republicans were muttering yesterday that the amendment might be resurrected. But many others, remembering how the party was savaged in the election campaign for proposing curbs on healthcare spending, are nervous of reawakening the perception that they support benefit cuts.

They are probably right that a balanced budget is rapidly losing its power as a symbol of probity. The central problem, which the public has hazily recognised, is that social security and healthcare programmes are due to run out of money early next century. Any government is likely to have to raise taxes, make cuts or run a deficit.

Pressure grows for Gore fund inquiry

Washington: Congress is stepping up efforts to force an independent investigation of Democratic fundraising as top Republicans focus attention on whether Al Gore, the Vice-President, broke the law (Tom Rhodes writes). Trent Lott, the Republican Senate majority leader, has introduced a resolution demanding an independent counsel examine the 1996 election campaign scandal, and Mr Gore's alleged role. A resolution vote today comes as the Senate Judiciary Committee prepared to insist that Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, agree to an independent inquiry.

WORLD SUMMARY

Dampener on France's new library

Paris: Celebrations to mark the opening of France's grand new library, the Bibliothèque de France François Mitterrand, have been dampened after officials admitted there had been a flood in its archives just a month after its inauguration (Ben Macintyre writes).

Shelves of materials in the high-tech library were damaged when swamped by fire sprinklers reacting to a false alarm on January 26. The electronic detection system failed to monitor the flood.

Koreas meet

New York: North and South Korea held their first face-to-face peace talks for a quarter of a century yesterday in a three-way meeting with the United States at a hotel here (James Bone writes). US officials described the meeting as a "joint briefing" by America and South Korea on proposals for a four-power conference — to include China — aimed at concluding a peace treaty formally ending the Korean War.

Sikh victory

Delhi: Relatives of Sikhs massacred in Delhi 13 years ago after Sikh bodyguards murdered Indira Gandhi have received compensation (Christopher Thomas writes). The mostly paltry sums acknowledged official connivance in the murders. Senior Congress party politicians who urged the killings have been too powerful to prosecute.

Seoul shuffle

Seoul: President Kim Young Sam of South Korea appointed Kang Kyong Shik, 60, as Finance Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle to deflect criticism of his handling of a slumping economy and a £3.6 billion loans scandal. The new Prime Minister, appointed on Tuesday, is Koh Kun. *(Reuter)*

Art tug-of-war

Moscow: Parliament here passed a law, attacked by the Russian and German Governments and subject to presidential approval, claiming ownership of artworks seized from Nazi Germany. *(Reuter)*

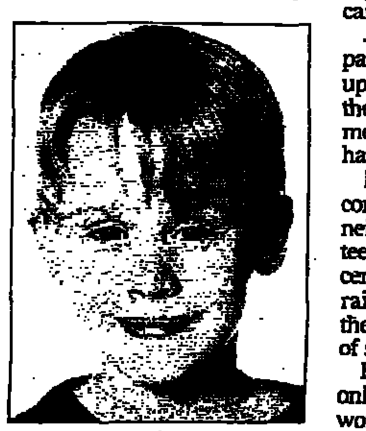
'Home Alone' star wins access to $7m film fortune

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MACAULAY CULKIN, now 16, has been granted access to his $7 million (£4.3 million) fortune so that he can attempt to restore the imbalance child-star fame brought to his family life.

A New York judge ruled that Culkin's parents, who have squabbled and split, should no longer have control of his money. Responsibility will rest with an independent accountant and Culkin himself. His first purchase will be a Manhattan flat for his six siblings.

Manhattan's supreme court heard Justice David Saxe detail the sorry neglect that Culkin has suffered at the hands of his parents, Kit Culkin and Patricia Brentrup.


Culkin: from cute child to teenage party animal

The notoriously difficult couple, whose only income came from 15 per cent "management fees" from the film careers of their children, have spent all their money suing each other. Justice Saxe said there was "a real possibility" that Macaulay and the other Culkin children would be left without a roof over their heads unless he overruled trust fund arrangements keeping the youngster from his millions.

When Culkin made the film *Home Alone* in 1990 he was a cute ten-year-old said to have a future lined with gold and happiness. Today he is a beer-swilling, cigarette-sucking adolescent who has been used by his parents, robbed of his dignity and has lost his acting career.

Justice Saxe said the Culkin parents "cannot be relied upon" and noted that rent on the four New York city apartments where the children live had gone unpaid for months.

Macaulay Culkin has become undisciplined and neighbours said his nineteenth-floor flat was "party central", comparing it to a railway station, such has been the litter and noise and traffic of strangers.

Kieran Culkin, 14, is the only family member currently working in films — co-starring in *Freak the Mighty* with Sharon Stone.

JOYCE NALTCHAYAN / AFP

President Clinton, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, comforts Judy Sligh, whose business was destroyed by tornados

Thousands flee as floods hit Midwest

BY QUENTIN LETTS

THOUSANDS of people were evacuated from their homes as severe floods, the worst for at least 33 years, hit the American Midwest. Twenty-four Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky counties were declared disaster areas amid roof-high floods in the Ohio River valley. Tennessee and West Virginia tributaries burst their banks, forcing whole towns to be ruled out of bounds by exhausted emergency workers.

The fast-flowing Ohio, rushing by with debris and battered vehicles, crested at 12ft above normal flood levels yesterday. The floods were caused by heavy rains, and a forecast of further rain suggested that the worst may yet be to come. Houseowners tried to move possessions into attics, but in towns such as West Point, at the confluence of the Ohio and Salt rivers, there was nothing to be done. More than four-fifths of its houses were submerged. The floods resulted from the weather system that brought late snow to the Northeast and tornados to the South.

Turkish leader bows to military

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN ANKARA

TURKEY'S Islamist Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, has signed a military-sponsored plan for a crackdown on pro-Islamic radicals, ending a stand-off with the powerful Army, a senior military official said yesterday.

"The signing problem has been resolved," General Ilhan Kilic, the National Security Council's secretary-general, said.

The end of the stand-off had been disclosed moments earlier by Tansu Ciller, the Foreign Minister. "The problem has been totally resolved," she was quoted by the Anatolia news agency as telling a meeting of her conservative True Path Party.

A private Turkish television station also reported that Mr Erbakan had bowed to military pressure and signed the army-sponsored plan.

The National Security Council includes political leaders and senior officers from the military, which regards itself as the guardian of Turkey's secular political system.

Mr Erbakan's decision to give in to the military pressure came amid heightened tension, caused after he rejected the 20-point military plan on Monday.

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Sportsmen riding for a fall

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on why so many sports stars develop arthritis; prescriptions that are thrown away; pain at low temperatures; surgery to make hands look younger; and new investigations into fertility and population

JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Willie Carson riding near his home last week after announcing his retirement

It is said that Willie Carson was Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's favourite jockey, and she will not be the only racegoer to miss his distinctive voice and determined but personable manner. She will, however, be better than most at understanding and sympathising with his reasons for retiring. For the Queen Mother is, like Carson, no stranger to the aches and pains of arthritic joints.

Carson, 54, had a terrible accident at the end of last year. He is reported to have said recently that his joints and bones have been so badly battered by a lifetime in and out of the saddle that it has left him with residual damage which makes it impossible to push himself hard enough to keep sufficiently fit to meet his own exacting standards.

Carson is only one of thousands of athletes whose reward for a working life on the tracks and playing fields could be a row of silver cups on the sideboard — and a pair of sticks by the door with which to hobble around the house when they are older.

The comment of the orthopaedic surgeon who said when looking at the distorted, swollen, painful knees of a former international rugby player "bring me an athlete of 50, and I will demonstrate osteoarthritis" has gone into medical folklore. But it is only part of the story.

> Even the dinosaurs seemed to suffer with their joints

Osteoarthritis is not confined only to sportsmen and women, or even to human beings. All vertebrate animals, other than bats or sloths, may suffer from osteoarthritis. Even the joints of dinosaur skeletons have been eroded by it. It shows a racial bias; the Chinese, for instance, rarely suffer from osteoarthritis from the hips.

Early signs of degenerative joint disease can be found in 10 per cent of people in their twenties. By the age of 40 the majority of knees and hips have X-ray evidence of osteoarthritis, and by 70 even the most slothful person who has never run after a ball, let alone ridden a horse, has some wear and tear in the joints.

Osteoarthritis has been described as joint failure, a degenerative condition in which the cartilage of the joint surfaces can no longer cope with the stresses they have to bear. The factors which contribute to this disease are multitudinous. The tendency to suffer osteoarthritis is genetic, but its advent may be triggered by many causes, ranging from minor congenital abnormalities of the skeleton which place joints under regular tension, to a wide variety of diseases.

Other cases are brought on by endocrine abnormalities, by malignancy, by complex changes in the biochemistry of the body, or by overuse — whether as a footballer or as a farmworker. Particularly damaging to the joints are the traumas inflicted by such activities as steeplechasing, rugby football, or other contact sports. Doctors are not free of blame; osteoarthritis is a late consequence of most cases where there has been open surgery on a joint.

Patients want a drug which will reduce the inflammation and therefore the pain in the osteoarthritic joint, allowing them a good night's sleep and freer, painless movement by day. Patients also want, however, an anti-inflammatory drug which will not cause savage gut ache, diarrhoea, vomiting, or the risk of a serious adverse reaction resulting in perforation of the stomach or intestines, or a fatal haemorrhage.

Two thousand people die each year from taking anti-inflammatory pills to treat arthritis — as many as do from cancer of the cervix.

A better understanding of the mechanism of the enzyme system responsible for the inflammatory processes controlled by prostaglandins in a diseased joint has enabled doctors to produce a whole new group of anti-inflammatory drugs. These will reduce the inflammation, and therefore pain in the joint, without being likely to cause damage to the gastrointestinal tract or the kidneys, or to interfere with blood clotting.

Most of these drugs will not be available for three or four years, but the first, Mobic, is rapidly becoming established as a treatment of moderate to severe arthritis, including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis. An alternative to Mobic is Arthrotec, which combines a gut protector with the anti-inflammatory drug.

As yet neither Mobic nor Arthrotec are totally safe but they are very much safer than previous anti-inflamatory drugs. Now, whenever my back or other joints are too stiff or painful, I'll take one of these two and will reject offers of other non-steroidal anti-inflamatory agents.

When patients won't take their medicine

Half of patients with serious chronic illnesses do not take the medication which has been so carefully prescribed for them by their doctor, and so expensively provided by the NHS. The pills and potions lie decaying in bathroom cupboards, or are thrown away. A year or two ago, one county collected all unused prescriptions. The haul weighed a ton and a half.

The cost of unused medicines extends far beyond the price of the prescription. Without carefully balanced treatment, the patient does not make the recovery expected and in consequence may need yet more therapy. There is no better example of the failure of patients to take prescribed drugs than is found in cases of high blood pressure.

Although hypotensive therapy is lifesaving, only 50 per cent bother with it so long as they are feeling well. When prescriptions are either not collected, or collected and abandoned, it is not only the doctor's time which is wasted. There is the additional danger that the doctor gains a false impression of the efficacy of the treatment recommended, and other patients may therefore be deprived of it.

A joint two-year investigation by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and a pharmaceutical company, Merck, Sharp and Dohm, into non-compliance found that neither doctors nor patients were to blame in isolation. Their report said, for this reason, the term patient compliance was disliked because it seemed to attribute the problem only to the patient. Doctors tended to be too authoritarian and did not spend long enough explaining to the patient the nature of the illness and its symptoms and the way in which prescriptions would help.

Patients did not understand the need to explore with the doctor their worries about taking treatment, and often had no intention of swallowing their prescribed drugs. It was even suggested that there might be an instinctive human reaction against swallowing chemicals, similar to that found in cows, which will leave the poisonous weeds in a pasture. The theory is that some patients may have an inborn warning system which makes them reluctant to take substances which could, if taken in non-medicinal doses, cause damage.

Doctors' orders may be a good excuse for leaving a party for an early night or turning down the second helping of pudding, but it is a phrase which summons up an image of the worst type of doctor-patient relationship.

My father, who epitomised the Edwardian doctor, was never able to come to terms with the approach of younger colleagues who treated their patients as if they were personal property, rather as farmers might think of their milk quota.

A doctor, in his view, was there to give advice. The patient was at liberty to accept or ignore it. If the patientswant opinion, or even to change their doctor, they are fully justified in doing so, and this should be accepted without ill will. Likewise, the doctor has every right to suggest to patients that they would be happier, and better served, by going elsewhere.

The successful doctor-patient relationship existed in the past when both could sit down together and discuss the problems, the remedies, or the lack of them, the side-effects of treatment and the likely outcome of the disease.

It is interesting that nearly 100 years after my father qualified, the expert panel gathered together by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has produced a report that recommends dealing with the problems of compliance which would incorporate the approach of Dr Finlay or Dr Cameron, or my father in Norfolk.

Red, white and blue in the cold

EVERYONE has experienced agonising pain and colour changes in the hands and feet if they are badly chilled in cold weather.

Patients with Raynaud's Phenomenon are particularly liable to suffer these colour changes. They need not always be brought about by extreme cold, although they are worse in these conditions.

With Raynaud's Phenomenon the fingers — only rarely are the thumbs affected — are painful and undergo either biphasic or triphasic colour changes. They may go from livid blue to a bright red, and in patients suffering the triphasic changes the colour starts as a deathly pallor before changing to blue and then red.

Raynaud's Phenomenon, when it is not precipitated by cold, may be associated with many other trigger factors, including smoking, high blood pressure, thyroid problems and scleroderma and a host of other troubles. The syndrome is found more commonly in women than in men.

The *British Medical Journal* has recently reported that Raynaud's Phenomenon can also affect the nipples of pregnant women.

The agony some pregnant women suffer in their breasts in cold weather has often been described, but nobody had noticed previously that the nipples went through the same colour patterns, both biphasic or triphasic, as did the unfortunate woman's fingers.

Old hands given new life

OLD MASTERS were particularly good at painting hands. Many a possible family treasure has been dismissed as a copy after an expert has seen it and explained that the hands "were just not good enough". The veins on the hands of the aged were so beautifully painted that they not only added to the impact of the picture but were a clear guide to the sitter's age.

Albrecht Dürer's *Hands*

People's ages are as much marked by their hands as they are by their necks or hair.

What is moving in an Old Master is depressing to an actress, television presenter or hostess, who have no desire to look frail and elderly, but want to appear still dynamic, young and sexually appealing.

Bags under the eyes and chicken skin around the neck can be removed, but hitherto the veins of the hands have been a giveaway, and many patients have even taken to wearing gloves to hide them. Two London surgeons, Stanley Rivlin, who operated on Baroness Thatcher's varicose veins, and his colleague Paul Baskerville have now devised an operation, cosmetic phlebectomy, which rids women of any hand veins that might betray their seniority.

Small, nearly invisible incisions are made in the back of the hand — the incisions are so small that no stitches are needed. Through these incisions the veins are hooked out. The patient is admitted for one night, bandages are worn for 24 hours, the bruises are all gone within a week and the patient can thereafter hold her hands up anywhere.

Sperm counts and fertility

ALTHOUGH there seems to be an obsession at present with sperm counts as an indication of man's diminishing masculinity, there are still frequent questions about how true a measure they are of the fertility of a population.

Further doubts on the relevance of an individual sperm count have been cast by a recent survey, which showed wide variations in the count from day to day, and even depended on which laboratory was involved. So before any man becomes too depressed about his fertility, and makes any decision about it, he should undergo tests.

The Journal of Urology has published a study which shows that, despite present doubts, there is a real association between the average sperm count in a community and its birthrate. In a very large survey, urologists in Minnesota have compared sperm counts to birthrate there since 1971.

When the average sperm count rises, so does the birthrate. The link between an individual's single sperm count and his fertility may be questionable, but if the count for the population as a whole is estimated, it is highly relevant.

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The McAlpine memoirs: Day Four – spending Christmas with Margaret Thatcher

The interior of the Great Hall at Chequers where a log fire blazed

'The Prime Minister immediately set about sorting out the fridge'

Romilly and I always occupied a suite on the first floor of Chequers

CHRISTMAS AT CHEQUERS

Confessions of

◆

THATCHER'S BAGMAN

The Christmas of 1983 I spent, as usual, with the Thatchers at Chequers. Romilly and I would arrive at about 11 on Christmas Day, after calling in to see my parents at their home near Henley-on-Thames. The Christmas Day lunch party was usually composed of the Thatchers, Mark and Carol, and Denis's sister, known as Auntie Joy, a delightfully down-to-earth character.

Romilly and I were house guests and a variety of other people came to different Christmas lunches over the nine years that we stayed at Chequers. Regular attendees were Tim and Virginia Bell, Ronnie Miller, Sir Jack and Lady Page, along with other people who were down on their luck or lived near by. Gordon Reece was often there on Christmas Day. Lunch went well as it always did, for Margaret Thatcher had a talent for making her guests feel at home. A great log fire blazed in the Great Hall, a giant Christmas tree filled one part of it with its long drooping branches. Under them were the Thatcher family presents.

There was always plenty to eat and drink and Margaret Thatcher was assiduous in seeing that you ate and drank it. Denis was the most genial of hosts and there was a party spirit about the place.

After a few drinks, it was into lunch, usually melon followed by turkey. A giant bird, the gift of the Smithfield traders, it was carried in by a chef, who then posed with the bird and the other staff for photographs. After that the Christmas pudding, a flaming ball topped with holly, which was carried hurriedly around the table. The wines were good and the food well cooked. Mince pies, brandy butter, Stilton — all were in abundance. Crackers were pulled, but the Prime Minister never put on a funny hat. Photographs were taken by many of those present.

Then Jack Page rose to read his poem, a poem that had been specially written for the occasion. At this point, coffee was served and the Prime Minister began to fidget, looking at her watch and moving uneasily in her chair. Jack Page's poems were in fact sagas that ran and ran. The danger approached of a collision between the words of the Queen due on television at 3pm and the tail end of the Page poem. The Prime Minister stood up and we all hurried to the White Study to watch the Queen making her Christmas speech.

The national anthem played and we all stood to attention. The speech over, the Prime Minister announced a walk to the Bothy, where the police who guard Chequers have their base. We carried with us Christmas cake and other refreshments. Some time was spent talking to the police, who had missed their Christmas guarding us. Then we set out for a brisk walk down the drive to wish the staff who lived in the cottages at the Churchill Gate happy Christmas. One year, the weather was unusually warm but it changed suddenly to a rather cold Christmas Day. Romilly was without a coat, so she asked to borrow one from Carol. Instead of lending her a coat of her own, Carol lent Romilly one of her mother's that was hanging in the hall cupboard. We were about halfway down the drive at a very exposed spot, when the detective who was walking with Romilly a yard or two in front of the Prime Minister said: "It's wonderful that you are wearing the coat the PM wore to church this morning. You make a splendid decoy. It's a great help because we're having trouble with the security equipment today. It's not working properly."

Back at the house, tea is served and then the guests headed for home. When all the guests had left, the staff were given the evening off. Romilly and I went to our room to change. We always occupied a suite on the first floor of Chequers, a large bedroom comfortably furnished and a smaller one adjoining it. Both rooms had their own bathrooms. The point of this layout was that in the days of male Prime Ministers, who liked to stay up all night, smoking and drinking and I suppose plotting, the male Cabinet member could return to his room without disturbing his wife. I remember Carla Thorneycroft, a frequent visitor to Chequers in Churchill's day, telling me that she always knew when Peter came to bed next door by the smell of cigar smoke.

Dinner on Christmas night was a simple affair; usually the six or so of us staying in the house sat at a round table in a bay window of the dining-room. A buffet was laid out: smoked salmon, cold turkey, cold beef, salads, fruit and Christmas cake. One year, there was a large tin of caviare. Margaret Thatcher decided that this half-eaten tin should be put away in the fridge, so Romilly and the Prime Minister set out for the kitchens. After some trouble fumbling around in the dark, they finally found the way to the kitchen. The fridge was on an industrial scale. Inside were half-eaten chickens and turkeys, mince pies and whole piles of fresh food. "This will not do," said the Prime Minister, who immediately set about sorting out the fridge and covering plates of food with clingfilm and silver foil. I laugh to think of the surprise the next day when the staff returned and found this transformation of the inside of the fridge. Boxing Day lunch was usually a more formal affair. I would spend the morning in the library, which for me was bliss: the collection of memorabilia at Chequers is wonderful. Lunch on Boxing Day was usually a buffet affair served on round tables seating eight or ten people, set up in the Great Hall. The guests were a mixture of politicians and industrialists.

Often they grumbled at being asked to leave their own houses on Boxing Day, but they came anyway. There are in London a group of people who flit around power as honeybees around lavender, collecting a little more power for themselves at each encounter. There is no room for either sentiment or principle in the lives of the overly ambitious. I felt certain that there would have been a telephone call to Downing Street if an invitation to any of them was delayed in the post.

● *Extract from* Once A Jolly Bagman *by Alistair McAlpine (©Alistair McAlpine, 1997), published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on March 13, at £20.* Times *readers can buy* Once A Jolly Bagman: Memoirs of Alistair McAlpine *for just £16 (a saving of £4) by calling The Times Bookshop, 0990 134459*

The day I became an IRA target

MEMORIES OF WEST GREEN

Margaret and Denis Thatcher with Skye McAlpine

BY May 1990, I had left my home at West Green in Hampshire. I had for some years been a target of the IRA and my house was vulnerable to attack. Some instinct encouraged me to move. I also moved my London residence. A week or so later in my new London apartment, I woke, as usual, just before 6am. I switched on the television and as I began to increase the volume, a house ruined by a bomb blast came on the screen. Romilly, sitting in bed beside me, said: "That's West Green". So it was. Our last home had been blown apart by an IRA bomb.

It was an incredibly strange feeling, sitting there looking at a ruined house where, had we not left, we would have died. The telephone rang. It was the Prime Minister. She had also just seen the 6am news. She was very kind about the whole business. I am compelled to write, however, that I did not feel too badly about the house for I and my family were still alive.

The bomb had exploded under the window where Margaret Thatcher had stayed only four months before. That room was next to Skye's bedroom. Next the police called. "Do not move. Do not touch anything in the apartment," they said. In minutes, they arrived with dogs and equipment. Our apartment was thoroughly searched. Soon the press began to ring me. I simply said: "It is a shame that the IRA, these days, are going around blowing up beautiful old houses."

Margaret Thatcher had visited West Green several times, on the first occasion when our daughter Skye was very small. Skye took Margaret Thatcher by the hand and led her into the garden to play hide and seek. When I noticed that the Prime Minister was not around, I set out to look for her. Nobody seemed to know where she was. I found Mrs Thatcher in the garden, hiding behind hedges as Skye searched for her. Mrs Thatcher is naturally good with small children, treating them like miniature adults, which is what small children really enjoy.

MICHAEL HESELTINE

MICHAEL HESELTINE and his wife Anne visited us shortly after he walked out of Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet. I have always liked Michael personally, despite the fact that I do not agree with a single political idea that he has ever produced.

I first met him, then one of Ted Heath's ministers, in 1973 at a dinner party. He regaled the assembled company with his views on the economy. Even then, it struck me that he was a man who felt that he could run everyone else's business far better than they could.

Years later I observed him as a Cabinet minister. Given the chance to run a ministry, and faced with making choices, he was far from decisive. He is so different from me, he is a maker of sets, a checklist collector, a checklist politician. For myself, if I find a thing of beauty, I want more of that same thing. I am not remotely interested in making sets that include the boring and the banal just because they happen to be part of that set. Nor am I inclined to avoid people who just happen to have views that contradict my own.

I have not seen much of him since that time. In time he drove Margaret Thatcher from office. I bear him no malice for what he did, politics is a hard game and Heseltine was Thatcher's enemy. It was the treachery of those who failed to support her friends that brought her down.

TOMORROW

McAlpine on McAlpine: "My education at Stowe was a disaster"

You are not alone – 34% of men suffer from impotence at age 58

What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOTENCE"

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It's time to pension off the State

David Willetts hails the Lilley pension reforms as the greatest advance since Lloyd George

The concept of retirement was invented just over a century ago. It was followed by the first serious investigations of the case for a state retirement pension. The argument was that working men would not be able to save enough during their lives to keep them in their retirement, so the State should step in to run a pension scheme. The great economist Alfred Marshall gave evidence to the Royal Commission on the Aged Poor in 1893, and argued that it would be wrong to introduce any schemes that did "not contain in themselves the seeds for their own disappearance . . . I should not like any institution started that did not contain in itself the causes which would make it shrivel up, as the causes of poverty shrivelled up." He looked forward to a time when people would be earning so much that it would be possible to expect them to save during their working lives for their own retirement.

Now we are reaching that happy situation, with people on average earning enough to be able to save for their retirement. But ironically, we have been stalled by the inertia of the old system. The working population has been paying so much through the State's pay-as-you-go system to current pensioners that it has been difficult to see how they could be expected to save for themselves on top. We appeared to be at an impasse. Yesterday, Peter Lilley showed that he has cracked that problem. He has put forward one of the boldest and best policy initiatives since 1979.

Peter Lilley's proposal is one of the strongest policy initiatives since 1979

The next generation of people joining the workforce, in the new millennium, will get a rebate of their national insurance contributions of £9 a week plus 5 per cent of their earnings to pay into their own pension savings. They will still have to pay some contributions to finance the pensions of the generation above them, which is entitled to a state pension that must obviously be protected.

The net cost of the rebates is an extra £160 million, cumulating every year to a maximum eventual cost of around £7 billion a year — rather smaller than the rebates for people who contracted out of Serps in the mid 1980s. Peter Lilley has held the total costs down by an ingenious shift in the tax rules, so that the next generation's pension contributions will be paid out of taxed income but received tax free. This balances out for the individual over a lifetime, but helps the Government with its cashflow during the change-over to the new system. And the 1995 Pensions Act will yield savings of £13 billion a year, so Peter Lilley has already created scope for financing the transition.

That is the technical brilliance of what Peter Lilley is proposing. But what is the big picture? The next generation is being offered genuine security through a real fund for its pensions. A recent MORI survey showed that more young people expect to win the National Lottery jackpot than believe they will ever get an adequate state pension.

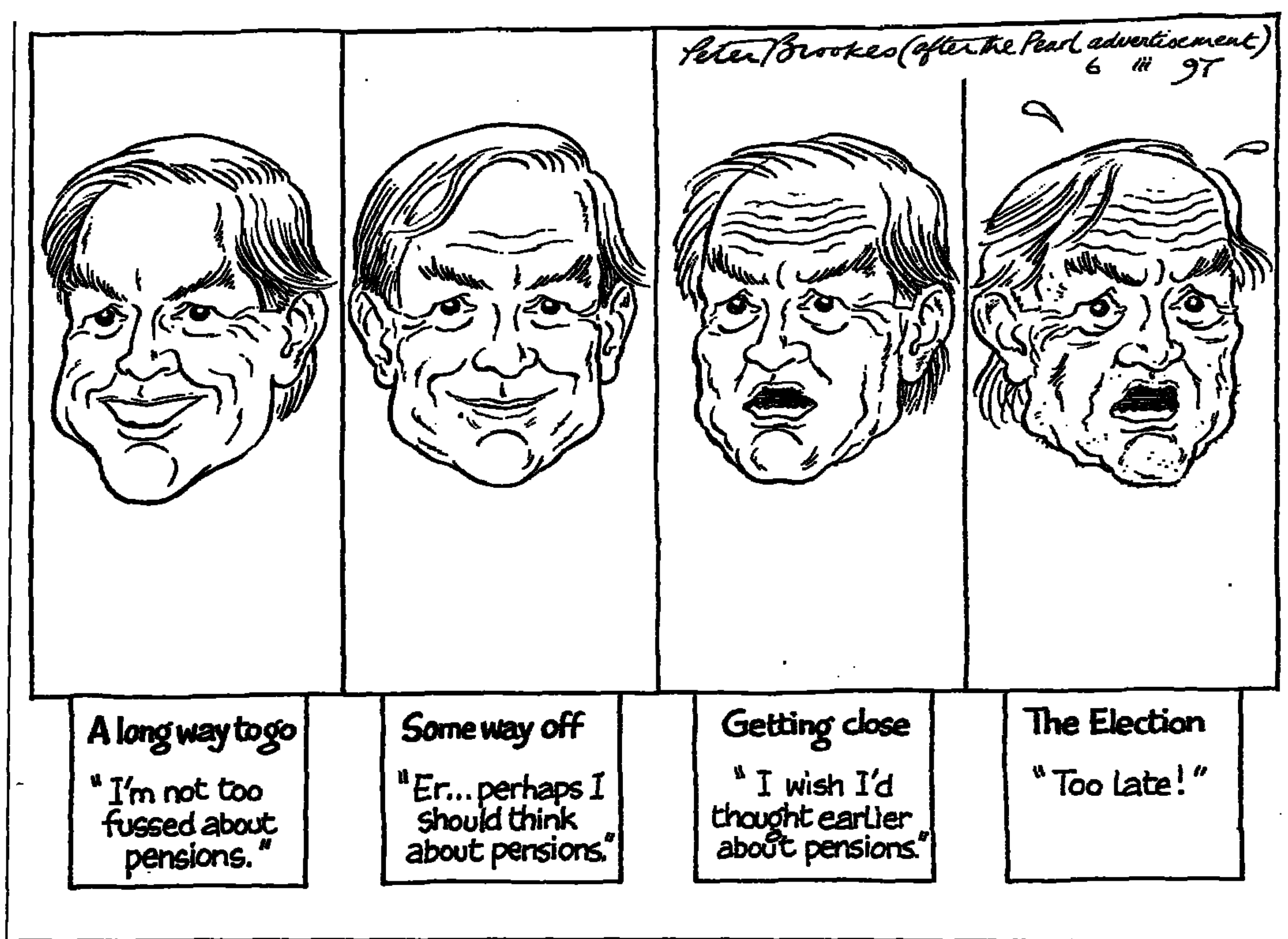
Instead of their pension ultimately resting on the State's power to tax, they will now have one secured on genuine private funds. Because all young people will be in such schemes, private pension providers will be able to hold down their administrative and advertising costs, which have brought such bad publicity to personal pensions. The Social Security Department will be able to focus on what is rightly its responsibility — guaranteeing the basic pension and helping the poorest pensioners.

Peter Lilley has cautiously assumed that his proposals will have no impact on the overall performance of the economy. He is dutifully following the conventional economic doctrine that capital markets are global so there need be no correlation between the amounts a nation saves and its volume of investment. The theory is that a low-saving country with a host of investment opportunities will simply borrow to make up the difference. But in practice there does seem to be a strong correlation between savings and investment. So if we save more we may well invest more. If our growth rate increases even by just one twentieth of a percentage point, this will more than cover the costs of the rebates at their peak.

This opens up for working families not Harriet Harman's "chilling prospect", but the hope of pensions that grow along with the economy. Labour, by contrast, advocates industry-wide second pension schemes on the Australian model. But how can civil servants define an "industry" for the purpose of collecting a pension in the year 2040? The modern global economy makes the idea absurd. And also, as with Frank Field's proposals for a stakeholder second pension, trade union bosses and employers are expected to run the schemes through some sort of corporatist structure. It is remarkably backward-looking. Nothing beats personal ownership, direct and clear.

Back in 1911, Lloyd George fought an election when he brought in his national insurance scheme with the slogan of "nine pence for four pence". Now Peter Lilley is offering £175 a week for £9 plus 5 per cent. It is a popular cry, and unlike Lloyd George's offer it is securely based on genuine saving. It takes us yet further towards the Tory vision of a property-owning democracy, and it deserves to succeed.

The author is chairman of the Conservative Research Department and MP for Havant.


Peter Brookes (after the Pearl advertisement) 6 iii 97
A long way to go
"I'm not too fussed about pensions."
Some way off
"Er... perhaps I should think about pensions."
Getting close
"I wish I'd thought earlier about pensions."
The Election
"Too late!"

Stand up for bastards

The weakening of marriage is only part of a general weakening of the sense of responsibility towards children

William Rees-Mogg

David Evans is an offensive comedian; he thinks he is being frank and manly when he is merely expressing the ideas of a bully in the language of a clown. He represents a sweaty testosterone culture which rejects and perhaps fears women; such a culture is still quite strong in the world of professional athletes and refuse contractors in which he failed to grow up. It is an unpleasant, one-sided and ungenerous culture which does not deserve to be represented in Parliament. He has nothing to say which would make Britain a better place, and much to say which would make it a worse one. He is against women, blacks and gays; they have every right to resent his prejudices, and to reject him.

Yet, infuriatingly, he has raised a real and serious issue. The form of his criticism of Melanie Johnson, the prospective Labour candidate for his Welywn Hatfield seat, was very unpleasant. But the underlying question is one of public concern. Miss Johnson has apparently been in a stable partnership for 18 years, and has had three children. She has not married the father of these children. She has had a useful public career as a magistrate, a manager in the National Health Service and a schools inspector. She was chosen for the constituency from a woman-only shortlist.

David Evans coarsely expressed the fact that she had three children outside marriage, and said she had never had a proper job. Her reply is: "I'm standing for election, not my children. I'm horrified that he could stoop so low as to abuse my three children with this foul word. How many parents will agree with David Evans that inspecting schools and raising standards is not a proper job?"

She has two valid points; David Evans should not have used abusive language about her children. If being a schools inspector was a proper job for Matthew Arnold, it is a proper job for her. However, that does not answer a third point. Her children are certainly in no way to blame for being born outside marriage, but is she in any way to blame for not getting married to the partner of 18 years, the father of her children? Has she disadvantaged her children? There are a number of possible answers to this. One is that it is a personal matter and that her possible future constituents have no valid interest in it. Another is that cohabitation is as good as marriage for the welfare of the children. Yet another would be that there are some private circumstances which would have made marriage impossible, though it is hard to think what they now might be.

In local terms, a Member of Parliament is a role model. David Evans himself is a role model, if a disgraceful one. Miss Johnson is already an establishment figure, a schools inspector and a magistrate, and she is putting herself forward to for election as an MP. She has apparently decided to have her family outside marriage. She may only be adding a single pebble to the heap of stones which marks modern marriage as unnecessary, but she has added her pebble. She is not only responsible to herself, to her partner and to her children; she is also unavoidably responsible to the public. If she wanted a purely private life, then, to put it bluntly, she should have stayed in private life. Her private decisions have public consequences, and are therefore a proper subject for public discussion.

The implication of a preference for cohabitation over marriage is that there is an unwillingness of one partner or the other, or both, to commit to permanence, even when they have children. A far higher proportion of such partnerships break up even than of modern marriages. The option of breaking up is consciously preserved in such partnerships, however loving and stable they may be: because that option has been retained there must always be a certain insecurity. Although some good partnerships will undoubtedly provide a better home for the children than some less good marriages, the general rule is that partnerships are less secure than marriages while they last and are less likely to last.

There is overwhelming evidence from research that the effects of the break-up of partnerships or marriages are damaging to the lives of the children; they become more likely to underperform at school, to fall ill, to come before the criminal courts, to fail to make stable relationships in their own adult lives, to become alcoholics, even to die prematurely. These are indeed only differences in statistical probability, but it is such statistical probabilities which shape society. There is almost no social problem which is not aggravated by the high incidence of break-up and divorce, and partnerships are more likely to break up than marriages. Miss Johnson may be asserting her right to lead her own life if she chooses, but the more general statement that she seems to be making is that marriage is not essential for family life: that is an antisocial statement. To criticise her arrangements should never be turned into a criticism of her children, but without further explanation, it can be a legitimate criticism of her.

She is of course not the only role model to be reluctant to accept the full social responsibility of the role. The Archbishop of Canterbury is an excellent role model himself, and recognises his own responsibility, but he seems to be remarkably relaxed about the responsibility of bishops. The Bishop of Birmingham, Mark Santer, is a widower; he has decided to marry a divorced person in a register office because such a marriage would not be accepted in the Church of England.

Everyone will feel personal sympathy for his position. His private happiness is an important consideration; no doubt if he were counselling a member of his congregation he would do so with compassion and understanding. But he is not just a member of the congregation. He is a bishop of a Church which is still fighting a rearguard action against divorce and the destruction of family life. For him to marry in an entirely secular procedure is to set an example that such marriages are acceptable and that divorce is acceptable. A generation ago it would be unthinkable for a bishop to go through what is, in the eyes of his Church, an invalid marriage. We can equally feel personal sympathy with the Prince of Wales, but if he were, as a divorced man, to marry a divorced woman, that too would make him to that extent a negative role model for society.

We live in an age which has tried excessively hard to eliminate absolute rules. The absolute rule about marriage is that it is a lifelong and unlimited commitment. When both parties to a marriage perceive it in that way, it is much easier for them to maintain it. If you know that marriage is absolute, temporary problems are likely to remain just that. This is the great inferiority of non-married partnerships, and it is the great weakness of divorce. If the door is always ajar, there will always be the possibility that one or other partner will leave through it: each temporary problem requires another permanent decision and sooner or later the temporary difference is as likely than not to be seen as irreconcilable. A loose structure of marriage, which has been made looser by this Government's "no fault" divorce laws, or mere cohabitation is much weaker than real marriage, and therefore much more difficult for the partners to maintain.

It is not, however, the partners who usually suffer most when marriages break up, but the children. Their suffering can last a lifetime. The modern weakening of marriage is only a part of a general weakening of the sense of responsibility towards children; that does so much harm and causes so much pain that it is hard to forgive. Apparently Kevin Costner has said that he will never feel like a real father to the person who is called his "love child". Has he any idea of what that remark may do to the life for which he is inescapably and permanently responsible? If you are not prepared to be a real father, you should not father the child; if you are not prepared to be a real mother, you should not become pregnant. Sex is an act with consequences that can stretch 80 or more years into the future: permanent marriage has the great advantage of being able to contain that unique responsibility. Nothing else can.

Labour's spring of discontent

Striking teachers are a portent, says Magnus Linklater

I like the expression "a cloud no bigger than a man's hand". It's just enough to suggest that a raincoat would be advisable — and that is how I picture the fraternal delegates as they congregate in Inverness tomorrow for Labour's last party conference before the election. With a substantial lead in the polls, and the Wirral by-election to confirm it, the mood should be one of exhilaration — and I dare say that will prevail. But when Tony Blair addresses the Scottish Conference in the afternoon, I doubt if Sheffield-style triumphalism will be on the agenda.

Some strange things are happening, which carry warning signals for Labour beyond the Scottish border. The dust will barely have settled on a one-day teachers' strike in Glasgow, which closed most of the city's 400 schools yesterday. Two more are planned later this month. In Edinburgh, strike action may disrupt the city council's budget meeting today. Throughout the country, up to 20,000 local government officers were expected to strike over planned job cuts. Remember, these are all Labour-controlled councils, where the very phrase "compulsory redundancies" is heresy. The result is a springtime of discontent, which could well turn into a long summer of protest unless something is done to reverse the effect of massive cuts and council tax increases of up to 22 per cent.

And yet, what comfort will the delegates be offered in Inverness this weekend? Blaming the Government is one thing. Explaining what Labour will do about it is quite another. There are uncomfortable signs that the public is losing confidence in the party's ability on both scores. An opinion poll earlier this week in the *Herald* showed Labour down by a fairly serious six points, the second successive drop it has recorded. The paper ascribed the fall-off almost entirely to Gordon Brown's bleak announcement that there would be no increase in income tax levels and no rise in public spending under Labour; what may be good news in Middle England has gone down less well North of the border.

At the same time, the line that this is all the Government's fault is failing to convince the public. The same poll showed that voters hold both sides — local and national — almost equally responsible for the crisis. And they no longer believe that a Labour government would provide any more in the way of funding. The electorate is becoming very well informed and very cynical — a dangerous combination.

At the same time, the expectation of better things ahead remains enormously high. Education shows up as the top priority for reform, backed by evidence on the streets. The turnout of demonstrators yesterday was far greater than anyone had anticipated, and it included parents as well as school staff. Sympathy for the teachers has not dried up, as it seems to have done in England; even the leader of Glasgow council, whose cuts are at the centre of the protest, said he thinks the teachers have a case. At party level, the emphasis remains determinedly old Labour: to judge from the glossy brochure for this week's conference, there is little to suggest that new Labour's lessons of thrift and discipline have made significant progress. The trade union advertisements speak of "defending public services . . . fighting for a socialist agenda . . . full employment and dignity at work . . . a national minimum wage to tackle poverty and inequality".

So Labour's attempts to reassure its party faithful, while at the same time insisting that no new money is available, begin to sound like a gagged man trying to make himself understood. Frantic head signals and a sort of strangled moaning is all that emerges. George Robertson, the Shadow Secretary of State, indicates that there will be "different spending priorities", that choices "will begin to transform local government services". There will be smaller classes in primary schools, but these, it is said, will be paid for by abolishing the Assisted Places Scheme (which, in its short life, has become surprisingly popular) and scrapping the nursery voucher scheme. There is no mention of the reality ahead: that schools in Glasgow will have to be closed because there are simply too many of them: that compulsory redundancies are inevitable whoever wins the election: that no amount of juggling the budget can meet the shortfalls that almost every council in Scotland faces.

From behind the gag come sounds that will not please Mr Blair: non-domestic rates, it is said, could be raised, placing the burden on business rather than the private citizen. Spending limits could be eased in the short term to allow the effects of local government reorganisation to settle. There are ways of reassessing spending priorities which would ease the constraints that councils face. It's all muffled, hard to make out, and even harder to define without falling out of line with party headquarters. Above all, it is unconvincing to the voter.

None of this, of course, will seriously threaten Labour's prospects on May 1. Its majority has been chipped, not seriously damaged. But it is worrying nevertheless. That cloud looks a bit bigger already.

THE TIMES DIARY

Acting officers

MUTINY has been narrowly averted down at Sandhurst, where the officers have seen off some impertinent behaviour from the television programme *Soldier, Soldier*. Producers from the programme had asked to film at the 110th Royal Military Academy and Staff College point-to-point. This annual event at Tweseldown racecourse in Hampshire, where young officers go clattering over the fences, is one of the highlights of the Sandhurst calendar.

When news reached the barrack-room a rearguard was instantly formed. "This is a horse-racing event not a film set," says one involved with the event. "We were certainly not going to have them stopping the horses every five minutes so they could waltz on and do their thespian things. And there was absolutely no way anyone was going to agree to be herded about like extras by some pushy film director with a megaphone."

It is a mess joke whenever actors from the programme come to scramble over the Sandhurst assault course. All this despite the fact that the Army's official line is to support the show for its recruitment value.

Happily, after some polite negotiation, military decorum is safe. "The production team will be arriving early and will film with two fixed cameras. There will be no disruptions," says a racecourse official.

● *Surprise at the BBC as it reveals the three stars of its general election line-up: John Humphrys, Jeremy Paxman and (drums roll) Sybil Ruscoe of Radio 5 Live. As one within the BBC puts it: "It's as if the Tories came out and said 'We've got John Major, Michael Heseltine and Dame Elaine Kellet-Bowman.'"*

"I've decided to settle your dismissal out of court"

Fat chance

NO RISK of typecasting for the forthcoming film of *Gilded Gutter Life*, the memoirs of the art historian Daniel Farson. Decades of inspecting the bottoms of wine glasses around Soho have taken their toll on Farson's jowls. Yet the rather more chiselled Rupert Everett, star of *Another Country* and *The Comfort of Strangers*, has been asked to play him.

"I was very impressed by Everett," Farson tells me, "but he was not quite me. I was very naïve when I first hit Soho and Rupert certainly isn't that. What's more, he's far too angular."

Happily, the choice of Derek Jacobi to play Francis Bacon wins Farson's approval: "Jacobi is spot on for the role. He bears a remarkable resemblance to the artist."

● *Late at night in the Lords the other day, the Bishop of Ripon suggested a change to the name of the Qualifications and National Curriculum Authority. He wanted the "National" dropped for technical reasons. Lord Morris of Castlemorris, Labour's education man, observed: "It will now be called Quacker rather than Quanker."*

Go Getty

A HIGHLY secretive 70th birthday party for the philanthropist John Paul Getty takes place tonight. He has chosen to spend £45,000 celebrating at the relaunched Café de Paris in Leicester Square, a low-rent sort of place full of dark velvet and shady customers.

The theme will be "Introduction to Summer" and the 300 diners will start with *foie gras* with avocado and French-bean salad, sea bass and lobster *en croute*, and to round off, something called Caribbean chocolate duo. By way of a surprise, the Café de Paris intends to present Getty with honorary membership, which will save him £300.

James Bond has given up his Aston Martin for a Jaguar

XK8 007

FOR the next series of James Bond books, 007 will be driving a Jaguar. After the sacrilege of the BMW driven by Pierce Brosnan in *Goldeneye*, Raymond Benson, who has been commissioned by the Ian Fleming estate to write the next few Bond books, has been in talks with Jaguar about designing the new Bond car.

He wants something to rival the classic Aston Martin DB5 for knee-trembling glamour, yet with a modern twist.

"The XK8 is top of the list at the moment," says Jaguar, which is now owned by the American Ford company. "We are helping Benson with the design and ideas for all the gizmos and gimmicks. We have suggested how the car might realistically be modified to include exploding hubcaps and other bits and pieces."

P·H·S

[illegible]

هكذا من الاطلاع

THE PENSION PLAN

Where Lilley has marched, Labour should follow

Peter Lilley's pension proposals have brought a gust of fresh air into the stale, smoky atmosphere of pre-election politics. These reforms are a radical solution to a huge problem; they show a willingness to think far beyond this Parliament or the next; and they prove Britain to be an innovator ahead of its European partners. In sum, they are an example of good government.

Whether they prove to be good politics is another matter. To present such a complicated and far-reaching plan just weeks before a general election is certainly curious timing. This is no little nugget to tempt the voters; indeed it will cost the taxpayer money for some 80-odd years. But it is a genuine attempt to grapple with the biggest public spending problem that governments of all shades will face over the next century.

Britain has nothing like the "pensions timebomb" that some other European countries face. Because this country's demographics are more favourable, and the pension age for women is to be raised, we shall have a healthier ratio of workers to pensioners. Because the basic state pension has been linked to prices rather than earnings, it costs the state less. And because the British have saved more for their retirement in occupational and private pensions than the rest of the EU put together, the burden on the taxpayer will be smaller. But, all that said, pensions are still set to take up an ever bigger share of the already-growing social security budget unless something is done.

The rationale for paying every citizen the same pension is also starting to fade. When the state pension was invented, life expectancy at retirement was only a few years. There were few occupational or private alternatives; so old age was closely correlated with poverty. Now that second pensions are so much more common, the old are much less likely to be poor. But the cost of paying everybody a pension for the many more years before they die will become prohibitive.

The effect of Mr Lilley's reforms is that, having given people a rebate throughout their working lives, the state will step in only to provide a safety net for those whose pension funds fail them. This should eventually cut £40 billion a year from the projected £50 billion which the current system would otherwise cost — but not until 2060. Meanwhile, the taxpayer will have to pay twice over, providing pensions to everyone who retires before then, and paying rebates to the people in the new scheme. The net cost of this will peak at £7 billion a year.

It is this cost that has always deterred pension reformers in the past. And it is on the basis of this cost that Labour is opposing the proposals. Mr Lilley has managed to make it smaller than it would otherwise have been, by taxing pension contributions during people's working lives in return for not taxing their pensions when they retire. But it is still a burden that this working generation will have to swallow.

Many will consider it a price worth paying. For the new scheme has attractions beyond its eventual large savings to the Exchequer. It will allow people to own the whole of their pensions, instead of trusting some future government to abide by its predecessors' promises. Everyone will have a visible stake in the economy — and their pensions should rise in line with economic growth instead of merely with inflation. Unless the economy collapses or pension funds are run by crooks, most people will be much better off in retirement. And the Government's guarantee limits the risk.

If this scheme is to work, however, private pension providers must be tightly regulated. Otherwise they will be tempted either to overcharge customers or to opt for high-risk investments in the knowledge that the state will step in if they go wrong. Consumer confidence in the sector is currently low. It will have to be revived by tougher supervision.

Despite Labour's promises to be more radical than the Tories on welfare reform, the party's reaction shows it to be less forward-thinking. It is perhaps understandable that an Opposition used to planning ahead only until the election and a bit beyond should find it hard to appreciate the value of savings in 2060. But all welfare reform is painfully long-term. If Labour wants to be radical, it needs to adjust its sights.

SWISS ATONEMENT

Welcome words in the best of traditions

Rarely does one look for statesmanship from Switzerland or a visionary speech that ranks with the great declarations of European politics. But the address yesterday by President Koller to the Federal Assembly, confronting Switzerland's wartime role, treatment of Jewish asylum-seekers and dubious financial dealings with Nazi Germany, is a profoundly moving statement. It can be compared to the cathartic acknowledgement by Richard von Weizsäcker, the former German President, of German wartime knowledge of the Holocaust. Both men have faced the darkest periods of their country's history and redeemed some of their nation's honour.

Mr Koller noted that in the past few months the Swiss have been accused of dishonesty, stubbornness and arrogance: that the country's reputation has been tainted by the global impression that it enriched itself from the war; and that this severe criticism went to the foundation of Switzerland's economic values and its perception of ethics and morality. His countrymen, he noted, had reacted with outrage and bewilderment: surely they were less guilty than those who organised the deportations or gave vent to anti-Semitism? Others were questioning the value of Switzerland's wartime strategy. Was the country now paying neutrality's price?

He acknowledged that Switzerland's maladroit response had only made matters worse. Instead, he insisted, the past should be approached in a spirit of humility. Switzerland's reactions had been slow and defensive, giving the impression that only under pressure was it willing to deal comprehensively with its past. His words go to the nub of the antagonism Switzerland has evoked among Jewish groups; they also contrast starkly with the stance taken by his hapless predecessor, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, who accused world Jewry of blackmail.

The sum now being offered to aid victims of human rights abuses, catastrophes and the Holocaust is enormous: if adopted by parliament, the gold reserves set aside will amount to some seven billion Swiss francs, generating several hundred million francs a year for needy recipients. This would be an undertaking as munificent and high-minded as that other monument to Swiss humanitarian commitment, the International Committee of the Red Cross. Mr Koller linked the gesture to Swiss gratitude for having been spared two World Wars. In truth, it is also an attempt to pre-empt the likely findings of the committee of historians that Switzerland acted disgracefully in turning away Jews and profiting from their persecution.

The importance of this atonement lies not in the sum offered, generous though it is. It is in the recognition that an historic wrong must be acknowledged. The behaviour of nations is remembered long after their guilty citizens die. The implications of Mr Koller's proposal, however, are even more far-reaching. They bring home to the Swiss, for the first time in centuries, that the Alps do not shield them from world opinion nor is neutral isolationism always the best policy. Little by little, Switzerland is reaching out to the world beyond its borders. The Government's initiative will do much to broaden the narrow-mindedness that, in recent months, has served the Swiss so ill.

THE DREAM TERRINE

If you can't stand the meat, get out of the laboratory

Is it a quail? Is it a chicken? No, it's a quicken! Neuroscientists in California have crossed a quail with a chicken. However, their purpose is not to create a lumbering low-flying game bird as first a bigger target, and then a more substantial pot-roast. The experiment has lessons, we are told, about how the brain develops.

But such genetic breakthroughs also have lessons about how the food industry develops. Many incurious children already imagine that fish have fingers and that chickens are hatched already frozen in pieces with a packet of Kiev sauce. But new mutations will enable agribusiness to take even more of the toiling out of boiling. So a modern Mrs Beeton would have to recommend: "First breed your game pie." This is already happening in the continental sausage industry, where the mule makes its hybrid contribution to salami presumed to be plain horsemeat. Mutations will, however, have to leap a great deal higher before genetic science can contribute to the Belgian pâté that is advertised as half *cheval*, half *lapin*.

Such cross-cookery across the species is rare and usually sterile. The liger, offspring of a lion and a tigress, has been born only in zoos. So has the tigon, the cub of a tigress and a lion. Differences in behaviour and habitat make interbreeding of big cats in the wild unlikely. And their offspring would be tricky to catch, and have too strong a flavour for all except the superstitious who follow the virile diet of "you are what you eat".

But before now free-range chickens have disappeared into the rhododendrons for a month, and reappeared with a clutch of chicks that look suspiciously like pheasants. Potatoes have already been crossed with tomatoes, more successfully than their pronunciations have been matched across the Atlantic. Scientists may yet breed the ingredients for veal and ham pie on the hoof or trotter. And in the long run, the stir-fry's the limit. Sage and onion already grow together like a big toe and bunion. A Sole Cardinal hybrid could avoid unpleasantness in the fish kettle, if only lobsters mated more easily. Eventually, crossing the kingdoms as well as the species, fish and chips?

In this brave new cuisine, there will be initial misunderstandings. When Marilyn Monroe was married to Arthur Miller, his mother always made matzo ball soup. After the tenth time, Marilyn said: "Gee, Arthur, these matzo balls are pretty nice, but isn't there any other part of the matzo you can eat?" Man is the animal that cooks. And good cooking has been an art since the Stone Age. In the Clone Age it has also become a science at the crossing edge.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Devolution for Scotland and the integrity of the UK

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland

Sir, Matthew Parris ("The West Lothian nightmare", February 28; see also letters, February 15, 21, 25, 28) paints a fearsome scenario based on an automatic tension between a devolved Parliament in Edinburgh and the Parliament at Westminster. I'd like him to consider two alternative futuristic articles based on more realistic scenarios.

The first is the return at the next election of the Conservative Party with an even more diminished presence in Scotland. At the moment they rule Scotland and take every single legislative, administrative and executive decision with 15 per cent in the polls and only ten of the 72 seats.

In a fifth Tory term we can expect no constitutional change and the views of the vast majority of the Scottish electors to be again ignored and defied. The sole offer is the farcical travelling Scottish Grand Committee held up by the Director of the Conservative Political Centre, Alistair B. Cooke (letter, February 28), as the Tory answer to devolution.

Does anyone imagine that this would be a formula for stability in the United Kingdom? What conclusion will the Scottish people take from the denial of any devolution for them when the Prime Minister himself continues to offer legislative devolution to Northern Ireland? Would not the tensions arising from this scenario be a more plausible, and more frightening, basis to fuel some Matthew Parris nightmare for the integrity of the UK?

The second scenario might be constructed on the fact that what Labour is offering is by far the favoured option of the Scottish people. It might note that the decision to go ahead with the project will be subject to a referendum to obtain the specific consent of the Scots to what is proposed.

It might also build into the speculation that since democratisation of the existing bureaucratic devolution in Scotland is what the people want, they will live with their own decision and its consequences. After all, the Scottish people have lived without revolution for the last 18 years as laws affecting only Scotland, like the poll tax, were made by an English Tory majority.

The devolution proposals for Scotland are safe, sensible and thought-through; they were the subject of detailed debate and agreement in a constitutional convention which included the Liberal Democrats, the Scottish churches, trade unions, elected councillors and the widest group of civic organisations ever before assembled in Scotland on this issue.

In contrast, the unbending and insensitive "no-change" attitude of the Conservatives betrays the kind of arrogant contempt for reasonable change which is the real enemy of the unity of our country.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE ROBERTSON,
Shadow Secretary of State
for Scotland,
House of Commons.
March 2.

From Professor Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, Of all the arguments against a Scottish Parliament, none can be more preposterous than Alistair Cooke's claim that the "expansion of the Scottish Grand Committee" is itself a form of devolution because "it can deal with all Scottish legislation" and "it can call all ministers (not just Scottish Office ministers) to account". That is just what it cannot do.

When, in November 1995, MPs asked whether the committee could block nursery vouchers in Scotland, Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, said No, since "the absolute Westminster veto over Scottish business remains" and "the Scottish Grand Committee is not a Scottish Parliament".

It is difficult to understand why our supposedly flexible constitution suddenly becomes inflexible when it is called upon to meet the claims of Scots, and perhaps others also, for greater autonomy. In Italy, five regions, including Sicily and Sardinia, enjoyed autonomy for 22 years before it was granted to other regions. In Spain, Catalonia and the Basque country gained autonomy before other regions. Yet no one proposed a West Sardinian Question or a West Catalonian Question; nor were Spain or Italy on the verge of break-up.

Home Rule in Greenland and the Faeroes allows them to remain outside the European Union, while Denmark remains a member state. Yet nothing is ever heard of a West Greenland Question; and nor is Denmark about to disintegrate.

Experience in Western Europe shows that Lord Jenkins of Hillhead (letter, February 25) is right, and that conciliating nations and regions with strong identities serves to contain separatism rather than stimulating it. If that is correct, then devolution will strengthen the United Kingdom, not weaken it.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON BOGDANOR,
Brasenose College, Oxford.
March 1.

From Professor Emeritus
Sir Harry Hinsley, FBA

Sir, In the intensifying debate about devolution reference seems never to be made to an obvious consideration, alongside which the West Lothian Question is a red herring. I suppose this neglect must be due to this country's long history as a unitary state.

In single states in which powers are devolved to regional or provincial parliaments or assemblies and which are federal in that sense — the United States, Australia, Germany are some examples — it will always be found that a federal parliament exists in addition to, and in some respects superior to, the devolved parliaments.

All historical experience suggests that if a parliament is established for Scotland and Wales and restored for Ulster, it will be wise to establish a parliament for England, and even parliaments for English provinces if unthinking regionalism continues to spread, and to see that their competencies are carefully related to the powers of a parliament for the United Kingdom. I would go so far as to say that unless this step is taken, devolution will inescapably lead to separatism.

It may be feared that the introduction of two layers of MPs, national and regional, would lead to an unwelcome increase in the total number of MPs. But such a federal structure, properly designed, could be made to yield the opposite result.

Yours sincerely,
F. H. HINSLEY,
St John's College, Cambridge.
February 28.

From Professor Ian Levitt

Sir, Magnus Linklater is not quite correct in saying ("Scotsman on the make", February 27) that *The Scotsman* "has worshipped at the altar of devolution for the best part of 100 years". This has certainly been the case since at least the Second World War; but between the 1890s and early 1930s it vehemently opposed any form of political devolution, fearing a legislature dominated by a coalition of the temperance reformer, the disaffected crofter and the militant shop steward.

In 1894 it described an Assembly as "the provincialisation of Scotland" which would narrow Scottish interests and reduce Scottish rights over British commercial policy. Nationalism was the irrational response of those who lacked the wider vision. Perhaps the paper has returned to that view?

Yours sincerely,
IAN LEVITT,
University of Central Lancashire,
Department of Historical and
Critical Studies,
Preston PR1 2HE.
February 27.

MP's gaffe

From Mr Martin Hasseck

Sir, The most disturbing aspect of David Evans's sexist and racist diatribe (reports, March 5) is the fact that many of his constituents, subsequently interviewed by the media, claimed that his comments represented *vox populi*.

If there is any truth in this we are in dire trouble.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN HASSECK,
104 Holders Hill Road, NW4.
March 5.

From Mr John B. Birchell Hughes

Sir, Surely, in echoing the Prime Minister's own robust affections, Mr David Evans, MP, was merely emphasising the Johnson family's legitimacy for Cabinet office?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN B. BIRCHELL HUGHES,
35 Buckingham Gate, SW1.
March 5.

Politics of fear

From Mr Ronald Kellman

Sir, Peter Riddell suggests (March 1) that the Tories' only hope is to frighten the voters back.

Churchill tried fright in the 1945 election when he said that the return of a Labour government meant that a Gestapo *inter alia* would descend upon us. A terrifying thought at that time.

Election result? A Labour landslide victory! QED.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD KELLMAN,
37 Larks Meade,
Earley, Reading, Berkshire.
March 3.

Nato enlargement

From Sir Brian Barder

Sir, Sir Bryan Cartledge (letter, February 26) argues persuasively for Nato enlargement to embrace Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic as a means of redeeming the debt of honour incurred by the West at Munich and at Yalta [other letters, February 12, 17, March 3]. It is useful to be reminded of past promises that we in the West, or our parents and grandparents, failed to keep.

When I served as a diplomat in Poland in the 1980s, before the Wall came down, I sometimes had to remind visiting parliamentarians and others that nostalgic reminiscences about Britain's declaration of war in September 1939 in the cause of Polish independence cut little ice with Poles who had expected Britain and France to come to their aid at that time but had been cruelly disappointed. Our pre-war defence guarantees to Australia proved similarly impossible to fulfil.

Certainly it would help to right the Polish wrong if we were to extend the protection of the Nato guarantee now to Poland — and prepared genuinely to honour it if and when necessary. But to give yet another well-meant guarantee to the Poles (and the Hungarians and the Czechs, and later perhaps others too) and then find that in the event we either could not, or would not, honour it, would compound rather than redeem the debt. How credible would our Nato guarantee really be?

Would the United States, Britain, France and Germany really be prepared to risk war with a nuclear power in defence of Poland in a conflict with say, Belarus or Ukraine, or even Russia itself, over a border dispute which had escalated into military action? And are the evident risks to political stability and moderation in Russia of moving Nato's boundaries right up to those of the former Soviet Union really justified by such a questionable enterprise?

Creative diplomacy should be able to come up with a more convincing approach to mutual security in Europe, one that takes account of the situation of the late 1990s rather than that of 1949 for which Nato was designed.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN BARDER
(British Ambassador to Poland,
1986-88; High Commissioner to
Australia, 1991-94),
10 Melrose Road, SW18.
February 27.

Full house

From Dr John H. Greensmith

Sir, Really, Mr Harries-Harris (letter, March 1): 5.8 people turning up to watch Scunthorpe United play at home?

They wish!

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GREENSMITH,
36a North Street,
Downend, Bristol.
March 1.

Honourable mix-up

From the Hon William Meston

Sir, If Lord Lloyd-Webber (report, February 27; letter, March 4) was styled Lord Lloyd Webber of Sunset Boulevard Avenue there would be no need for a hyphen.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM MESTON,
11 The Green,
Mistley, Manningtree, Essex.
March 4.

Planning 'propriety'

From the President of the
Royal Town Planning Institute

Sir, You report today that John Gummer believes local planning authority decisions on sites for social housing are being determined more by political and electoral considerations than by planning ones.

We realise that this view is held by some: indeed that is one of the reasons why the Nolan committee is looking at the planning system. However, we have no evidence that it is based on anything other than anecdotal comments and we would welcome the Secretary of State backing up his claims with such evidence.

Planning authorities, rather than being reluctant to do their best to make such sites available, are in fact even keener to help than John Gummer might wish. Hence local authorities are seeking an even lower threshold to the size of sites on which they can seek social housing units from commercial developers. If the Government's target of providing more than 60 per cent of new housing on re-used land is to be met, planning authorities will need to be encouraged to grant permission for housing, not accused of gerrymandering.

Mr Gummer has just published a new edition of Planning Policy Guidance Note 1, with a welcome new section entitled "Propriety". This makes it clear that members of local planning authorities are elected to represent the interests of the whole community in planning matters, and that decisions must be based on receiving open and impartial professional advice. Councillors should have good reasons, based on land-use planning grounds, if they choose to refuse such advice.

The RTPI warmly welcomes that guidance and would be disappointed if Mr Gummer's reported comments to Nolan distract attention from the very real issues posed by the household-growth debate and the need for social housing.

Yours etc,
TONY STRUTHERS, President,
Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1.
February 27.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Episcopal prayer for Labour victory

From the Reverend
Michael Windridge

Sir, The Bishop of Worcester elect, Professor Peter Selby, whom you describe (report, March 1) as "an assistant bishop and top academic", has undoubted intellectual abilities. Sadly, he has also gained for the Church the highest honours in episcopal divisiveness. As you report, Professor Selby's published prayer for a Labour victory will add one further name to the succession of Anglican bishops who have elected to come out in public support of the Labour Party. By so doing, I believe they have risked compromising the authority of the special office into which they are ordained and consecrated.

By appropriating the authority of their ordained status to advertise their particular political party loyalties, the bishops have demonstrated that the pastoral charge given to them of promoting unity amongst the people of their own dioceses, and of the wider Church, takes lower precedence than advancing their own political agenda.

In the run up to a general election, Church of England bishops must recover the moral resolve to avoid being tempted into engaging in party political conflict. Only then, without perceived prejudice, can they participate convincingly in our national political debate. They may even discover fellow Christians, with political convictions as deeply held as their own, who dare to question whether a Tony Blair government would automatically herald the coming of God's Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WINDRIDGE,
27 Strafford Road,
Twickenham, Middlesex.
March 2.

Field sports

From Mr Stuart Nelson

Sir, I was not pleased to see the sport of hare coursing referred to as a "blood sport" in your report, "Hares may have met their last Waterloo" (February 26). This title, usually given to the whole range of field sports (which incidentally is the correct name), creates a totally wrong impression. After all, boxing, where you would see far more blood flying than you ever would out in the field, is never referred to as a "blood sport". And why not? Because it suggests that the supporters are there purely for the blood, guts and gore. This is not true either of boxing or the field sports.

People who follow field sports do so for the interest of seeing nature at work. It is fascinating to watch hounds hunting by scent alone or greyhounds hunting by sight. Indeed, I have learnt a considerable amount about the countryside and nature from following field sports, not to mention the many other reasons I support them, such as conservation, population control, rural employment and access to the countryside.

I only wish more people would wake up to the fact that field sports are good for the flora and fauna.

Yours faithfully,
STUART NELSON,
Church Farm Riding School,
Hilston, East Yorkshire.
March 1.

Pre-match let-down

From Mr John Tusa

Sir, Melvyn Bragg is wrong in thinking that the BBC TV sports build-up before the England/France Twickenham international was just a bit of fun (article, March 3). It was on exactly the same lines as the advertising before the England/Italy football match.

The message of both was simple and deliberately anti-intellectual: "Let those continentals have their sculpture and philosophy. We'll show them how to play the games we invented. See if their philosophy helps them." We lost both. Sad about the sport, sadder still about the underlying attitude.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN TUSA,
21 Christchurch Hill, NW3.
March 3.

No change

From Professor Frank Knowles

Sir, During a journey on a recently privatised railway route I heard the following announcement, which was relayed from the buffet car:

> To maintain the level of service to which you are accustomed, it will be necessary for us to close down the buffet for a short period.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK KNOWLES,
221 St Bernard's Road,
Solihull, West Midlands.

Portillo: the correction

From Mr Adam Clapham

Sir, Reading your correction today that Michael Portillo was educated at Harrow County Boys' School and not Harrow, it intrigues me to know whether the correction was prompted by Harrow County Boys' School claiming the Defence Secretary or Harrow School disowning him.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM CLAPHAM,
254 Alexandra Park Road, N22.
March 5.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 3: The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, today visited the Gemenc and Kunsag National Parks in Hungary.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner for World Wide Fund for Nature in Budapest.

March 4: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Petö Institute, Budapest.

His Royal Highness afterwards called upon the Prime Minister of Hungary.

The Duke of Edinburgh left Hungary this afternoon and flew to Turkey.

This evening His Royal Highness, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, attended a Dinner for DHKD (Society for the Protection of Nature in Turkey) in Istanbul.

March 5: His Excellency Mr Murad Chariev was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Turkmenistan to the Court of St James's.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

Admiral Leighton Smith was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of an Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

General Sir Roger Wheeler was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Chief of the General Staff.

The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Mrs Mugabe visited Her Majesty and remained to Luncheon.

The Duke of York was present.

The following were invited: Dr Stan Mudenge (Minister of Foreign Affairs), Dr Herbert Murerwa (Minister of Finance), Dr Nathan Shamuyarira (Minister of Industry and Commerce), His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Republic of Zimbabwe and Mrs Chideya, the Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Sir John Coles and Mr Martin Williams.

The Duke of Edinburgh left Turkey this morning.

His Royal Highness this afternoon arrived in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, National Playing Fields Association, was represented by Mr Christopher Laing (Chairman) at the Memorial Service for Mr Barry East which was held in the West London Synagogue this morning.

March 5: The Princess Royal this morning opened the new Care for the Elderly Unit, Ferryfield House, for the Edinburgh Healthcare NHS Trust and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Moredun Foundation for Animal Health and Welfare, this afternoon chaired the Retiral Lecture by Professor Ian Aiken at Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian (Captain George Burnet).

The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this evening attended the English Symphony Orchestra Concert at St James's Palace.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 5: Lieutenant-Colonel Hamish Macdonald today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Mayall also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 5: The Prince of Wales this morning left Royal Air Force Brize Norton at the start of a visit to Saudi Arabia.

The following were present and took leave of His Royal Highness: Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Head of Mission from the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia (Dr Mohammed Al-Hussainy) and the Station Commander (Group Captain David Vass).

His Royal Highness was received on arrival in Saudi Arabia by Prince Sattam bin Abdul Aziz.

The Prince of Wales later attended a Luncheon given by Prince Miteb bin Abdullah.

His Royal Highness, with Crown Prince Abdullah, this afternoon attended the Janadriyya Festival.

The Prince of Wales this evening attended a Dinner given by The Crown Prince.

Lieutenant Commander John Lavery RN and Miss Sandy Henney are in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 5: The Duke of Kent, President, this morning attended a Committee Meeting of the Automobile Association, at Norfolk House, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 5: Princess Alexandra, Patron of Home-Start, this afternoon visited the Kingston Scheme at 132 Kingston Road, New Malden, Surrey.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit Kingsbury High School, Princes Avenue, Brent, NW9, at 2.45.

The Princess Royal, as President of Riding for the Disabled Association, will attend a council meeting at Saddlers' Hall at 10.50. Later, she will attend the Institute of Petroleum's annual dinner at the Glasgow Thistle Hotel, Glasgow, at 6.50.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a concert in aid of St Christopher's Fellowship Howard House Appeal at the Church of St James, St James' Gardens, W11, at 7.45.

The Duke of Kent, will visit Flag Officer Sea Training *HMS Drake*, at Plymouth at and will visit *HMS Coventry* at sea on operational training at 7.45 am.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, will unveil her portrait at Downing College, Cambridge, at 6.35 and later will attend a dinner.

Birthdays today

Dr M.G. Adam, astrophysicist, 85; Sir Peter Barclay, former chairman, Social Security Advisory Committee, 71; Miss Jean Boht, actress, 61; Mr William Davis, author, broadcaster and former chairman, British Tourist Authority, 64; Mr Don Dixon, MP, 68; Professor Sir Charles Frank, FRS, physicist, 86; Mr David Gilmour, musician and singer, 51; Sir Alistair Grant, chairman, Safeway, 60; Professor David Hendry, FBA, Professor of Economics, Oxford University, 53; Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, former President, Wolfson College, Oxford, 74; Mr Lorin Maazel, conductor, 67; Sir Hal Miller, former MP, 68; Mr Malcolm Moss, MP, 54; Mme Valentina Nikolayeva-Tereshkova, first woman in space, 60; Mr Richard Noble, world land speed record holder, 51; Sir Ian Dixon Scott, diplomat, 88; the Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, 68; Professor Marilyn Strathern, FBA, social anthropologist, 56; Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, opera singer, 53; Mr P.C.R. Wates, chairman, Wates City of London Properties, 59; Mr D.H. Whitaker, publisher, 66; Mrs Ann Winterton, MP, 56; Sir Oliver Wright, diplomat, 76.

MARTIN BEDDALL

The Beach at Trouville, painted by Monet in 1870, being hung at the National Gallery yesterday for an exhibition of most of the Monet paintings on view in London which opens next Wednesday. More than 658,000 people went to the last big Monet show in London at the Royal Academy in 1990

Receptions

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was the host at a reception held yesterday evening at 10 Downing Street in recognition of the value of education.

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a reception given yesterday lunchtime by Her Majesty's Government at 10 Downing Street in honour of the overseas delegates of the Forty-Sixth Parliamentary Seminar 1997 of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Luncheons

HM Government
Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of Dr Istvan Szent-Ivanyi, Foreign Minister of Hungary.

Newspaper Society
Mr Robin Burgess, President of the Newspaper Society, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane to mark the retirement of Mr Dugal Nisbet-Smith, director of the society. Among those present were:

Lord Hussey of North Bradley, Lord McGregor of Durris, the Hon Sir Richard Storey, the Hon Jonathan Harmsworth, Sir Gordon Linacre, Sir Edward Pickering, Sir Frank Rogers, Sir Ray Tindle, Canon John Oates, Mr Frank Barlow, Mr Stanley Clarke, Mr Fred Johnston, Mr Ian Park, Mr Derek Smail, Mr Edwin Boorman, Mr Ted Crosbie, Mr Alan Graham, Mr Michael Mander, Mr Percy Roberts, Mr David Newell, Mr Chris Oakley and Mr Gerry Wilkinson.

University news

Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow of St Peter's College, Oxford, and Reader in Medieval History, to be Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

Memorial services

Mr Bertram East
The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Mr Christopher Laing, Chairman of the National Playing Fields Association, at a memorial service for Mr Bertram David (Barry) East, property developer, held yesterday at the West London Synagogue.

Cantor Adrian Harman officiated. Mr Douglas Insole, President of Essex County Cricket Club, and Mr Paul Orchard-Lisle, Senior Partner of Healey and Baker, gave addresses.

Group Captain W.G.G. Duncan Smith
Air Vice-Marshal T.B. Sherrington represented the Air Staff at a memorial service for Group Captain W.G.G. Duncan Smith held yesterday at St Clement Danes. The Rev Peter Bishop officiated.

Mrs Jean Calcabrina, daughter, Mr Barrie Duncan Smith, Mr David Duncan Smith and Mr Iain Duncan Smith, sons, and Mr Duncan Scott gave readings. Lord Merlyn-Rees gave an address.

Henry Miles Gosling

A Memorial Service for Henry Miles Gosling will be held at St Edburg's Church, Bicester on Monday, March 24, 1997, at 2.30pm.

Miss Joy Harley-Mason

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Miss Joy Harley-Mason, former Headmistress of Beverley School, Selhurst School and Guildford High School, will be held at *Guildford High School* on Wednesday, March 26, 1997, at 3.30pm. For further information please contact 01483 502323.

Mr Cecil Lewis

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Cecil Lewis, MC, will be held on Thursday, June 12, 1997, at noon at St Clement Danes, Strand, WC2.

Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson, FRS

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson, FRS, Nobel Laureate, will be held at Holy Trinity, Brompton, London SW7, on Thursday, March 13, 1997, at 6.30pm.

Bill Bedford

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Bill Bedford, OBE, AFC, FRAeS, will be held on Thursday, March 13, 1997, at 11.00am at St Clement Danes, Strand, WC2.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Michelangelo Buonarroti, sculptor, painter and poet, Caprese, Tuscany, 1475; Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac, dramatist, Paris, 1619; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, poet, Durham, 1806; George du Maurier, caricaturist and novelist, Paris, 1834.

DEATHS: Davy Crockett, frontiersman, killed in the Battle of the Alamo, Texas, 1836; Charles Farrar Browne (pen name of Artemus Ward), humorous writer, Southampton, 1867; Louisa May Alcott, novelist, Boston, Massachusetts, 1888; Gottlieb Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1900; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltán Kodály, composer, Budapest, 1967; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danby, Vermont, 1971.

Aspirin was patented by Felix Hoffman, 1899.

The *Herald of Free Enterprise* ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Alex Galbraith, Curate, Ss Matthew and James, Mossley Hill: to be Vicar, St Francis, Kew, and part-time Chaplain at Southport District General Hospital, Southport and Formby NHS Trust (Liverpool).

The Rev Jane Moult, Curate (NSM), St John in Bedwardine (Worcester): to be joint Curate, St Mark's, Bilton, Rugby (Coventry).

Canon Nigel Pocock, Rector, Camborne, Rural Dean of Carnmarth North, and an Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral (Truro): to be Vicar, Old Windsor St Peter and St Andrew (Oxford).

The Rev Stuart Samuel, Rector, Hathern, Long Whatton and Diseworth w Belton and Osgathorpe: to be Priest-in-charge, Waltham on the Wolds, Stonesby, Saxby cum Stapleford and Wyfordby; and Wymondham, Edmondthorpe and Garthorpe, Buckminster w Sewstern and Coston; and The High Framland Parishes (Leicester).

The Rev William Smith, Curate, St Michael's Stoke, Coventry: to be Vicar, Exhall (Coventry).

The Rev Elizabeth Walker, NSM, Ash w Ridley, and Chaplain of St George's School, Gravesend: to be Priest-in-charge, Burham and Wouldham (Rochester).

Resignations and retirements
The Rev David Applin, Rector, Awbridge and Sherfield English (Winchester): to resign August 31.

The Rev Michael Atkinson, Team Vicar, High Wycombe Team Ministry, responsible for St James, Downley (Oxford): to retire August 4.

The Rev Philip Elliott, Rector, Tredington and Newbold-on-Stour (Coventry): to retire March 31.

The Rev Michael Hill, Vicar, Sunningdale, Holy Trinity (Oxford): to retire May 25.

Canon David Towers, Rector, St Peter, Burnley (Blackburn): to retire August 31.

Withdrawal of acceptance
The Rev David Shrisunder has withdrawn his acceptance of the post of Honorary Assistant Curate in the parishes of Freethorpe, Halvergate w Tunstall and Wickhampton and Cantley, Limpenhoe w Southwood and Reedham (Norwich).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.A. Shirley
and Lady Morton
The engagement is announced between David Shirley, of Litmore Shaw, Ibstone, Buckinghamshire, and Catherine Morton, of Flore Fields, Flore, Northampton, widow of Sir William Morton.

Captain N.F. Fane
and Miss L.K.E. Schroder
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of the late Mr Michael Fane and of Mrs Michael Fane, of Blackdown, Hampshire, and Leonie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bruno Schroder, of London W8.

Mr J.M.I. Hardman
and Miss S.J. Ashford
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Adrian Hardman, of Owslebury, Hampshire, and Sasha, elder daughter of Air Vice Marshal and Mrs Ronald Ashford, of Brent Knoll, Somerset.

Mr A.M. Hepworth
and Miss S.C. Dobrzynski
The engagement is announced between Allan Macbeth, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Hepworth, of Fernhill, Birtles, Cheshire, and Sophie Catherine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Dobrzynski, of Brand Hall, Norton-in-Hales, Shropshire.

Mr B.L. Hooper
and Miss C.A. Pearce
The engagement is announced between Brendan Louis, youngest son of Mrs Maura Hooper and the late Squadron Leader Brendan Hooper, of Bristol, and Coralie Anne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Pearce, of Wantage, Oxon.

Mr C.E. Hunt
and Miss E.J. Coombes
The engagement is announced between Chris, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Hunt, of Sutton, Surrey, and Elaine, only daughter of Mr James Coombes, and stepdaughter of Mrs Linda Coombes, of Up Holland, Lancashire.

Mr S. Paterson
and Miss M.C. McBain
The engagement is announced between Stewart, son of the late Mr Harry Paterson and of Mrs H. Paterson, of Edinburgh, and Mary, second daughter of Mr and Mrs D.M. McBain, of Teffont, Wiltshire.

Mr G.P. Salmon
and Miss S.P.A. Brown
The engagement is announced between Giles, only son of Patrick and Sheena Salmon, of Westcott, Surrey, and Sonya, eldest daughter of John and Peggy Brown, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

Marriage

Mr G.H.A. Chisenhale-Marsh
and Miss L.M.A. Brockman
The marriage took place on Thursday, February 20, at St Theresa's Church, Beauty Point, New South Wales, of Mr Guy Chisenhale-Marsh, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Chisenhale-Marsh, of Mickley, North Yorkshire, and Miss Liselle Brockman, daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Brockman, of Mosman, NSW. Father Anthony Smith, SJ, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Kate Chisenhale-Marsh and Miss Christina Perez de la Sala. Mr Edward Theakston was best man.

Service dinners

Royal Irish Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J.C.W. Brooks presided at a dinner of officers of the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment held last night in Catterick to mark victory at Barrosa (1811). Second Lieutenant S.W. Rosenfeld also spoke.

Cambridge University Air Squadron
Air Vice-Marshal A.J. Stables, Chief Executive, Training Group Defence Agency, Headquarters Personnel and Training Command, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Cambridge University Air Squadron held last night in Duxford. Squadron Leader D.P. Calvert, Squadron Commander, presided. Mr M.C. Malone Lee, Vice-Chancellor of Anglia Polytechnic University, and Councillor J. Durrant, the Mayor of Cambridge, attended.

Dinners

Holborn Law Society
Mr James Furber, President of the Holborn Law Society, presided at the annual dinner held last night at Lincoln's Inn. Mr George Carman, QC, was the guest speaker. The Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General, Lord and Lady Templeman, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Potter, Mr Justice Carnwath, the Chairman of the Bar Council, the Deputy Vice-President of the Law Society and the presidents of local law societies were among the guests.

British Medical Association
Mr Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, was the guest of honour at a dinner given by the British Medical Association last night at BMA House. Sir Donald Acheson, president, was in the chair. The Minister of State for Health, Mr John Horam, MP, Baroness Cumberlege, Sir Graham Hart, Dr Graham Winyard, Dr Richard Smith and members of the association were among those present.

Royal Warrant Holders Association

The following have been elected officers of the Royal Warrant Holders Association for the ensuing year:

President, Mr Alan Britten; Vice-President, Miss Anna Plowden; Honorary Treasurer, Mr Sam H.G. Twining.

Latest wills

Stanley **Reiss**, of Hendon, London NW4, left estate valued at £2,303,245 net.

Cicely Valencia **Lancaster**, of Kelmarsh, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £2,355,289 net.
She left the proceeds of the sale of her jewellery, glass and paintings to PDSA, Wood Green Animal Shelters, RSPCA, and Brooke Hospital for Animals.

Robert **Parker-Lowe** of Warlingham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,018,475 net.

Catherine Mary **Kent**, of Bournemouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,483,130 net.
She left £3,000 to Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and to Torr House for the Blind, Plymouth; £4,000 to Barnardo's and to the Spastics Society.

Edith Marjorie Gwendoline **Pearce**, of Winchester, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,037,564 net.
She left £800 to both the RNLI and the PDSA; £300 to St Bartholomew's Church, Hyde, Winchester.

Monica Alice **Wrigley**, of Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,172,337 net.
She left £5,000 to the National Trust to be used for the Lake District.

Gary **Parsons**, of Carmarthen, left estate valued at £1,326,664 net.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

A thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and may have it in all its fullness. John 10 : 10

BIRTHS

BEVAN - On March 4th at St Mary's, Paddington, to Emma (née Crawford) and Jeremy, a son, Charlie Ben Crawford.

COBB - On March 4th 1997, to Samantha (née Cowling) and Stephen, a son, Edward Rory Scott, a brother for Isabel and James.

COWAN - On March 4th, to Meriel (née Raine) and Simon, a son, Alexander.

DEL AZAR - On March 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Helen and Juan, a son, Matias, a little brother for Juan Lucas.

GALITZINE - On 25th February, to Tania (née Meade) and Andrei, a son, Alexei, brother for Helena.

JONES - On 28th February 1997 at Arrowe Park Hospital, Wirral, to Sophie (née Lewis) and Paul Jones, a daughter, Eleanor Louise.

KOSLOVER - On February 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Annette (née Raitz) and Paul, a precious son, Oscar Harry Reuben, a brother for Joshua.

MACKENZIE - On 21st February 1997, to Joanna (née Pierce) and Marcus, a daughter, Katie Mary, a sister for Alexander.

MEYER - On 11th December, to Catherine (née Meade) and Gary, a daughter, Kim, sister for Anastasia.

SMEETON - On February 21st at The Portland Hospital, to Juliet (née Bell) and Richard, a daughter, Isabella Alice.

VALENSTEIN - On March 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Kathleen and Richard, a daughter, Alexandra Dana, a sister for Kendall and Grant.

DEATHS

BAGGULEY - Amasa Anne (née Bugg Burke) died peacefully at Church Farm Nursing Home, Cotgrave, Nottinghamshire, on 4th March 1997. Much loved by her family and friends. Enquiries to Radcliffe and District Funeral Service, tel: 0115 933 2257.

DEAKIN - John, formerly Secretary of the Cavendish Laboratory, died suddenly on Sunday 23rd February 1997 in Madeira. Funeral Service at Churchill College Chapel, Cambridge on Monday 10th March at 2.30pm. Please send any donations to The National Kidney Research Fund or The British Heart Foundation c/o Harry Williams & Sons, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge CB4 3EJ.

de CANDOLE - On March 4th, peacefully after a long illness, Elizabeth (née Constable-Roberts) aged 83. Beloved wife of the late Eric Armar Vully de Candole C.M.G., C.B.E., adored mother of John, Charles and Andrew and much loved grandmother of Adrian, James and Nicholas. Funeral Service at the Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Monday March 10th at 3 pm. Family flowers; donations if desired to R.S.P.C.A. may be sent c/o E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1SD. A Memorial Service will be held at the Church of St John the Baptist, Burley, nr. Ringwood, Hants., on Friday March 14th at 3 pm.

DENNIS - Alice Pamela, dearly adored wife of Richard, and much loved by so many others, died suddenly on 2nd March 1997, aged 74. Funeral Service for local friends at Kimpton Church at 1.45 pm on Monday, March 10th, followed by cremation in Salisbury. Family flowers only, please, but donations, if desired, to the Cinnamon Trust, Foundry Square, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 4HH. Memorial Service for all in April/May - date to be advised. Enquiries to: Gerald W. Burden (01980) 623262.

DRAGADZE - Peacefully on February 28th 1997 at home, St James's Square, London, Princess Daria Dragadze wife of Prince Peter Dragadze. Funeral to be in Russia.

HARVEY-BAILEY - Alec. On March 3rd 1997, beloved husband of the late Joan and father of Rhoddy. Private cremation. Donations if desired for the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund may be sent to W. Jones & Son, Funeral Directors, Brailsford, Derby's. DE6 3DA.

FOSTER - Patricia Mary "Pat" (née Blyth) on March 3rd 1997, peacefully in Minehead Hospital, Somerset, aged 96. Wife of the late Norman Foster, formerly of Hatfield Broad Oak and Loughton, Essex. Much loved and admired by all her family and friends. Cremation at Taunton Deane Crematorium at 2 pm Tuesday 11th March. No flowers please, but donations if desired to the Parkinson's Disease Society c/o H. Hawkes & Son, Irnham Road, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5DW.

HEPTINSTALL - Brigadier John, late RCT and No.5 Commando. Died March 3rd. Beloved husband to Kay, devoted father, father-in-law and grandpa. Service of Thanksgiving at Holy Trinity Church, Cowes, Isle of Wight on Monday March 10th at 2.30 pm followed by private cremation. No flowers. Donations to RASC/RCT Benevolent Fund. A retiring plate will be available at the church in aid of the Church Building Fund.

HILDRETH - Monica Durham Stokehill, died peacefully on February 27th. Beloved wife of Alan; much loved mother/mother-in-law of Janet, Anne and John; and grandmother to Alex, Kate, Chris and Peter. Service at The Breakspear Crematorium on Monday, March 10th at 2.45 pm.

LATIMER - Donald Courtenay of Kingswood, Surrey on Monday 3rd March, peacefully at home after a long illness, bravely borne. Dearly loved husband of Rosemary and adored father of Mark, Charlotte and Nicholas. Service to be held at St Andrew's Church, Kingswood at 2.30 pm on Monday 10th March, to which all family and friends are invited, followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to The Royal Marsden Hospital GI and Lymphoma Fund or The Princess Alice Hospice c/o W.A. Truelove & Sons, 121 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NS.

LAWLAN - Suddenly at home on March 4th aged 80 years, James (Hamish) of Corbridge, Northumberland, formerly of South Shields. Much loved husband of the late Margaret Scott (née McLaren), father of Alexandra, Andrew and John and a devoted grandfather. Service at Newcastle Crematorium on Monday 10th March at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please.

LUND - Howard on 4th March peacefully at Holywych aged 93, devoted husband of Eileen and much loved father of Gillian, Richard and Nicholas, also sadly missed by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral St Mary Magdalen, Cowden, Wednesday 12th March at 2pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired to British Diabetic Association, Queen Anne Street, London W1.

MACNAGHTEN - James Stewart peacefully on March 5th aged 82 at his home in Hadlow. Cremation at Tunbridge Wells 11.30 am March 14th. No flowers - donations to Scottish National Trust, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, would be appreciated.

MARR - On March 4th Geoffrey T. Marr Commodore DSC, RD, aged 88, father of Graham and Cherry. Will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Funeral Service on Thursday 13th March at 1 pm St Mary's Church, Church Road, Long Ditton, Surrey, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to Royal Alfred Seafarers Society or R.N.L.I. c/o Fredk. Paine, 265 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7AA.

MARTIN - Antony on 28th February. Very peacefully in London. Funeral Service for family and friends at St Bartholomews, Spithurst, Barcombe, nr. Lewes, E. Sussex (01273-400206) at 12.45 pm Friday 7th March. Donations:- to St Johns Hospice, St Johns Wood, London, instead of flowers.

MASKALL - Pamela Elsie, deeply loved wife of Roland, wonderful mother to Jacqui, Guy and Jamie. Much loved by Angie and devoted grandmother to Roxi and Tasha. Beloved sister to Doug, Jack and Peter. Passed away on 3rd March after an inspirational and courageous battle, will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Enquiries (0181) 363-3221. Donations if desired to: The North London Hospice, 47 Woodside Avenue, Finchley, London N12.

MINCHIN - On 28th February 1997 at Hare Lodge, Hailsham, East Sussex, Evelyn Mary aged 91 years, widow of Harry Minchin. A truly wonderful lady who always put the interest of others before her own. It was a privilege to have known her. Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium Main Chapel on Tuesday 11th March at 3.15 pm. Flowers or donations for Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare may be sent to Haine & Son Ltd., 19 South Street, Eastbourne.

STABLEFORD - Suddenly in Cowes, I.O.W., on March 1st, David Gordon, most beloved husband of Frances, son of Betty, father and grandfather. A funeral service will be held at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, West Cowes, at 12 noon on Tuesday March 11th. All enquiries to F.L. Lloyd Funeral Directors, tel: (01983) 293716.

TEESDALE - On March 5th Edmund Brinsley Teesdale C.M.G., M.C., aged 81. Dearly beloved husband of Joy, devoted father of Caroline, Hermione and Julia and loving grandfather of Jenna, Thomas, William, Toby, Robert, Laura, Daniel, Caragh and Brendan. Funeral private.

TURNER - Lady Winifred Bessie, beloved widow of the late Sir Victor Turner, I.C.S., on 3rd March 1997. Funeral Service at Guildford Crematorium 12 noon on Wednesday 12th March. Flowers to Pimms Funeral Services, Charters, Mary Road, Guildford GU1 4QX.

WILEY - Joan Evelyn, beloved mother of Judith and John, peacefully in Watford General Hospital on 27th February 1997 aged 88 years. Sadly missed by her family and many friends. Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Bushey on 7th March at 11 am.

WILKINSON - Kathleen Mary, on 28th February 1997, peacefully in hospital, aged 76 years. Much loved by all her family. Funeral Service at Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford on Wednesday 12th March at 12 noon. No flowers please, but donations to N.C.H.O. c/o Arnold Funeral Service, 911, London Road, Loudwater, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP10 9TF. (01494) 472572.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

ROBERTS - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Betty Roberts will be held on Monday 24th March at 3.30 pm at St Mary's Church, Worplesdon, Surrey.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BARNARD - In loving memory of Mary Ianthea who died on 6th March 1993 and of our children Julia Anthea Marietjie and Pieter Johannes. Emil.

CADELL - Simon. In memory of my beloved son, died March 6th 1996, remembered this day and all days.

FULLER - In loving memory of Jill Elizabeth who died on 31st December 1992 on this her birthday. Emil.

BIRTHDAYS

PHAM, CHARLOTTE-ANNA. Congratulations on this special birthday. From her loving family. 6th March 1997

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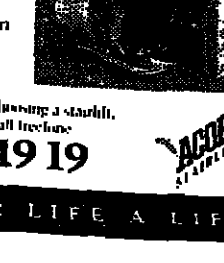

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OBITUARIES

CAPTAIN A. J. BAKER CRESSWELL

Captain A. J. Baker Cresswell, DSO, wartime destroyer commander, died on March 4 aged 96. He was born on February 2, 1901.

Through his quick thinking during a U-boat attack on a convoy in the North Atlantic in May 1941, Joe Baker Cresswell made an immeasurable contribution to the Royal Navy's victory in the Battle of the Atlantic. When the U-boat *U110* was brought to the surface by Baker Cresswell's ship *Bulldog* and abandoned by her crew, it was a natural instinct to sink her by gunfire or ramming, before picking up survivors.

But just as one of *Bulldog*'s escorting destroyers was getting up speed to accomplish the latter, Baker Cresswell suddenly remembered his staff college lecture on the capture of valuable German ciphers from the light cruiser *Magdeburg* in 1914. To the surprise of his fellow escort commanders, he ordered all offensive action to cease and instead had the German submarine boarded. Among the resulting haul of highly classified documents and equipment recovered was a German Enigma machine which enabled high-grade "officer only" *Kriegsmarine* signal traffic to be read. It was one of the vital blows struck in the battle against the U-boats.

Addison Joe Baker Cresswell was educated at Gresham's School, Holt, and joined the Royal Navy in 1918. Specialising in navigation, he was promoted to commander by 1937 and the outbreak of the war found him on General Wavell's staff in Cairo.

From 1940 he was on convoy escort duty and was to be involved, in one way or another, in antisubmarine warfare until the end of the war. On May 9, 1941, he was commanding the destroyer *Bulldog*, as senior officer of the escort group covering convoy OB318 in the North Atlantic south of Iceland. OB318 had already been attacked by a number of U-boats, among which was U110, commanded by Kapitänleutnant Fritz-Julius Lemp, whose sinking of the liner *Athenia* on September 1, 1939, had precipitated the U-boat war.

With Leutnant Kuppisch in *U94* Lemp had already scored some striking success against OB318, sinking two of its merchant ships. But in a momentary lapse of concentration he failed to perceive the danger from the convoy's escorts and was himself attacked by the destroyers *Bulldog*, *Broadway* and *Aubretia*, the last of which wreaked terminal damage on the submarine, with a well placed pattern of depth charges. With hydroplanes and rudder wrecked, all power and lighting out and with water surging in, Lemp ordered all tanks to be blown and the stricken *U110* lurched to the surface.

Baker Cresswell ordered his guns' crews to open fire and set course to ram, as did the captain of *Broadway*. Lemp, meanwhile, told his crew to abandon ship as 4.7-inch, 3-inch and pom pom shells burst about his stricken craft.

It was at that point that Baker Cresswell had the happy inspiration not to administer the *coup de grâce*, but to board the hapless enemy. Ordering his own and *Broadway*'s guns crews' to check their fire, he had *Bulldog*'s seaboat launched. But with foresight he had the German prisoners picked out of the water, first, and hustled below so that they should not see what was happening.

Lemp, however, could see exactly what was intended and, in the confusion, swam back to *U110* with one of his petty officers, perhaps with some idea of manning her gun, or of going below and destroying top-secret material. Baker Cresswell, who had no intention of allowing himself to come under fire from an enemy craft whose life he had already spared, ordered fire to be opened again with a Lewis gun, and the two men, who could be seen in the vicinity of the U-boat's deck gun, were hit and disappeared over the side. Lemp was never seen again.

Bulldog's whaler now closed with the submarine and Sublieutenant Balme, who was in charge of the boat, went below and discovered unsuspected riches of codebooks, charts showing German minefields and, above all, the invaluable naval Enigma machine. The list of settings for it was found in Lemp's cabin, making this one of the most important naval intelligence breakthroughs of the war. This priceless acquisition was ferried back to *HMS Bulldog*.

From that moment until February 1942 high grade German naval signals traffic could be read without delay at the decoding facility at Bletchley Park. There was then a gap when the Germans introduced extra rotors to the Enigma. But when *HMS Petard* captured the new rotors from *U559* in the Mediterranean in November 1942, the flow of signals could be deciphered once more.

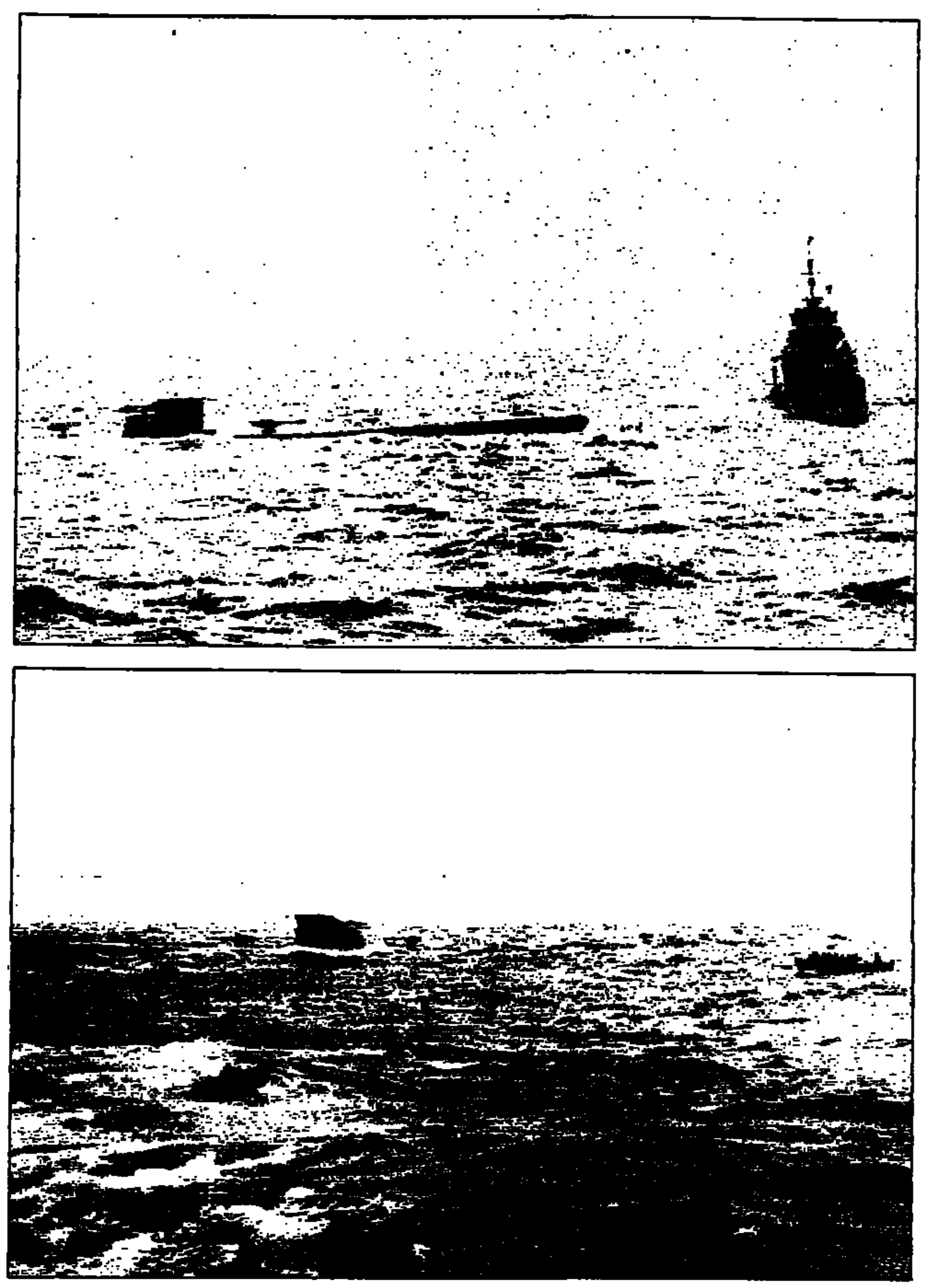
Once the signals office of *U110* had been cleared of valuable material, the boat was taken in tow by *Bulldog*. The aim was to tow her into Reykjavik, but during that night a gale sprang up and she suddenly started sinking by the stern. Reluctantly, Baker Cresswell ordered the towline to be slipped. But the accident was perhaps a lucky one. The Germans heard that *U110* had been sunk and throughout the war never realised that the Enigma she carried had been compromised.

In Britain, too, all records of the event were expunged and even the official naval history, *The War at Sea* (1954), by Captain S. W. Roskill made no mention of it. At the investiture for his DSO, Baker Cresswell was told by King George VI that his feat was one of the most significant events of the war at sea, and but for the necessity for security, a higher award would have been made. It was only in the 1980s, when the secret of Ultra intelligence was allowed to be published, that Baker Cresswell's exploit entered the public domain.

After *Bulldog*, Baker Cresswell was put in charge of training escort vessels and their crews from the converted steam yacht *Philante*, and was subsequently Chief of Staff to Sir Max Horton, C-in-C Western Approaches. His last wartime appointment was as Senior Officer Far Eastern Escort Vessels. After the war he served as Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence, retiring from the Navy in 1947.

In retirement in Northumberland, he threw himself into local public service as a JP and as chairman of Alnwick Infirmary. He was appointed High Sherriff of Northumberland in 1963. He loved country sports, particularly fishing.

In 1926 he married Rona, from Auckland. She and a son and daughter survive him. Another daughter predeceased him.



Seawolf at bay: top, *U110* forced to the surface as *Bulldog* lowers her whaler which then pulls across a heavy swell to the stricken submarine

DR GUY WIGLEY

Dr Guy Wigley, former Medical Adviser to the Greater London Council, died on February 9 aged 83. He was born on January 28, 1914.

AN INNOVATOR both in his professional life and during his retirement, as County Medical Officer for Middlesex from 1962 to 1965 (and as deputy from 1950) Guy Wigley pioneered changes in treatment and care for the mentally ill and mentally handicapped.

Under his direction, in 1957 the Middlesex health department set up the first special care unit in the world for mentally handicapped children. He was prominent in other pioneering ventures including the first of Middlesex's many homes for the post-hospital mentally ill (1960) and the first day centre for the elderly mentally infirm (1964).

With the reorganisation of local government he transferred to the Greater London Council as deputy medical adviser from 1965 to 1973 and medical adviser until his retirement in 1979. Here too he was an enthusiastic innovator. He reformed the London Ambulance Service and helped to develop new resuscitation techniques and training for paramedics. He streamlined staff medical services.

His energy was also displayed outside his working hours. He was a trustee of the Disabled Living Foundation since its inception and a member of many organisations in the field of mental and other handicaps.

His background, however, was solidly conventional. He lived in the same Edwardian house in Barnes for over 70 years, until he and his wife Louise, to whom he was married for more than 50 years until her death in 1988, moved to a riverside flat a few hundred yards away.

He was educated at St Paul's School, trained at Guy's Hospital immediately before the Second World War, and after a year in general practice joined the Royal Navy. He saw active service on Malta and Russian convoys and reached the rank of surgeon lieutenant-commander.

In retirement, the high spot of his year was to attend the Henley Regatta. He also liked nothing better than to pick out the different rowing crews as they passed his window, which gave him a perfect view from Barnes Bridge to Chiswick Eyot. Until he was 80 he would start each day with a two-mile walk across Barnes and Putney Commons for a one-mile swim at a local pool.

He also sustained his committment to improvements in the wellbeing of the mentally ill and mentally handicapped, and was the first chairman of the Richmond and Barnes Association for Mental Health, which supported a series of group homes as stepping stones back into society for those recovering from mental breakdowns. He also started a highly successful counselling service.

He was helping troubled people up to the end by listening to their difficulties whenever they telephoned or came to see him.

He leaves a son and daughter.

LORD KINNAIRD

Lord Kinnaird, 13th Lord Kinnaird, died on February 27 aged 84. He was born on September 15, 1912.

LORD KINNAIRD lived and died by the hereditary principle, for he was the last in a line tracing its origins to feudal times and, with his death, a barony becomes extinct. A diligent member of the House of Lords, he made quirky contributions to its proceedings and, after a career in banking and stockbroking, returned to Scotland to run the family estate.

When Graham Charles Kinnaird came of age the feudal spirit lingered: a bonfire was lit on Dron Hill, overlooking Rossie Priory, the family seat near Inchture in Perthshire, and the young Master was given various gifts by tenants and servants, then numbering about 200 in an estate of 12,000 acres.

He traced his line to Radalphus Rufus, granted a feudal charter by William the Lion, King of Scotland from 1165 to 1214. The Scottish peerage was created in 1682, the 1st Lord Kinnaird having been knighted by King Charles II. The UK barony of Rossie was created in 1860 for the 9th Lord Kinnaird.

The young Kinnaird was educated at Eton and entered banking, in which there was a strong family tradition. His family had been active from the early 19th century in Morland, Ransom of Pall Mall, later taken over by Barclays. It had also been involved in the promotion of the railways and sport: Kinnaird's grandfather was an outstanding football player for Old Etonians and president of the Football Association for more than 50 years.

Kinnaird served as a flying officer in the RAF Volunteer Reserve and in the 4/5th Battalion of the Black Watch. After the war, he settled in Essex and commuted to the City of London, where he worked in a small firm of stockbrokers in the days before the Big Bang, when the City was a village run by gentlemen.

He returned to Scotland about five years before the death of his father and took over the running of the estate, now somewhat reduced by death duties but still a substantial mixture of arable and hill land. He found great pleasure in his trips to London and the family flat in Chelsea, and for some 20 years was a regular attender at the House of Lords.

In the light of the contemporary discussion about the hereditary component in the Upper House, his speeches and interventions over the years make interesting reading. He was at once both fiercely conservative on the matter of tradition and staunchly liberal on the matter of individual rights. Despite a tendency to flirt with the mixed metaphor, his speeches show flashes of eloquence.

His maiden speech in 1973 was on the subject of noise — because he had been advised to choose as a topic "something that makes me really angry". He was a light sleeper in his top flat in Durham Place which, he said, seemed like an extension to the runway at Heathrow — in a later exchange a minister was to acknowledge it was the Clapham Junction of the skies. Kinnaird described noise as a living enemy. "Its waves of assault are like those of the sea. They come at you from all directions, like flashes from a bomb as it bursts." He returned to the same subject in the first question he tabled, when he asked at what height aircraft were allowed to fly over Chelsea Bridge.

His subsequent interventions found him defending tradition and individuality. Man, he observed, was not created equal and there was no such thing as an ordinary person. He urged stronger measures against crime, and called for it to be made unlawful to cause disruption in the nationalised industries or public utilities — an attitude prescient of current Tory policy.

He denounced Marxism among trade unionists and urged them not to meddle in politics. He attacked the "bad manners" of British Airways staff, and compared the state airline unfavourably with British Caledonian. He deplored football hooliganism and complained about bad language on television which "is constantly hurled into our homes without time even to bolt the back door".

Yet he was a champion of a fair wage for farmworkers. He defended the right of Sikhs not to wear motorcycle helmets. He opposed compulsion in the matter of seatbelts, and denounced moves to ban smoking in trains. What would BR do, he asked, if a train broke down?

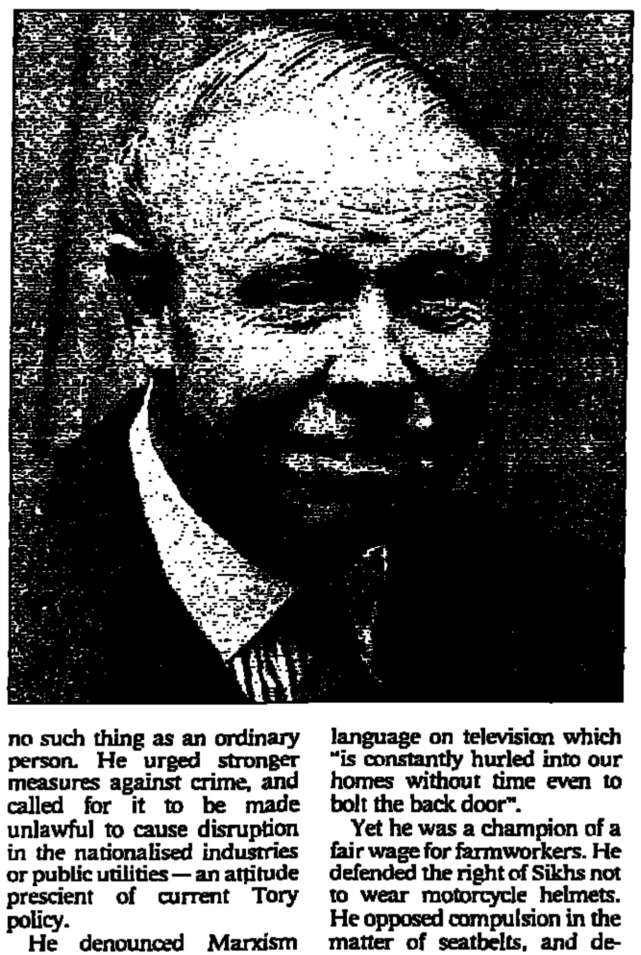
He was at his most eloquent whenever he saw a threat to tradition. He warned his noble friends not to "monkey about" with people's wills. He opposed changes to the ceremony of introduction to the Lords. Already, he noted, we had tampered with the Bible, the Prayer Book and the Church of England service — "with not very good results".

The devolution legislation of the 1970s, though he did not oppose it, troubled him greatly and his speech became a lament for a dissipated patrimony. "We are no longer a wealthy country; yet we squander our money as if there were no end to it. We are no longer a self-supporting country, yet we allow our industries to be brought to a halt. We used to be a traditional country; but the powers-that-be see fit to do away with county boundaries ... Soon we may be in danger of splitting ourselves in two, like the atom."

His final contribution, in 1993 during a debate on the health control of imported livestock, was a question: "My lords, can my noble friend please tell me what is the warble fly?"

Lord Kinnaird will be remembered as a kindly, modest and rather shy man. Apart from the affairs of his estate, his chief private interest was in art and antiques. He was particularly fond of French 19th-century paintings.

His first marriage to Nadia Fortington, in 1938, was dissolved in 1940. He is survived by Lady Kinnaird (Diana Copeman), whom he married in 1940, and by their four daughters. In 1951 his only son died of an illness at the age of four.



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LEGAL NOTICES

TRUCK FUNDING PLC (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Truck Funding Plc is to be held at Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL on 24 March 1997 at 10.30am under the provisions of section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a creditors committee.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
A J Barrett, Joint Administrative Receiver
3 March 1997

KESTREL CONTRACT HIRE LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above company are required, on or before 7th April 1997, to send in their full names and addresses, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to me Jamie Taylor of The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea and if so required by notice in writing from me, are personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 24/02/97
Jamie Taylor
LIQUIDATOR
N.B This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been paid in full but if any person considers he has a claim against the company he should send in his claim forthwith.

Phillips Merchandising Co. Limited
(IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, JJ Schapira, ACA a Licensed Insolvency Practioner of Messers Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members on 3 March 1997.
Notice is also given pursuant to Rule 4.182A that I propose to make a first and final distribution to the creditors of the Company. All creditors are required to send full details in writing of any claim to me by 27 March 1997, which is the last date for proving. The final distribution to creditors will be made without regard to any claims not received by the last date for proving.
The Company is known to be able to pay all of its creditors in full.
DATED THIS 3rd day of March 1997
JJSCHAPIRA, ACA, Liquidator

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ON THIS DAY

March 6, 1939

A healthy climate and excellent water supply enabled the city to escape epidemics, but for tobacco a combination of thyme, incense and tea-leaves was substituted, and for shoe leather slices of old car tyres.

THE ORDEAL OF MADRID
THIRTY MONTHS BESIEGED

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT LATELY IN SPAIN)

Three years ago Madrid was a gay, happy-go-lucky city where nothing ever attained its due share of immediate attention, where all events were received with an incredulous smile and commented on with facile wit, where people were friendly and talked easily — too easily — where life flowed leisurely, weather was pleasant, living was cheap, and work never very hard.

Today, under the double strain of an incredibly violent revolutionary process within its gates and a merciless war without, only the cynicism, blunted by suffering, remains. Food, after a 31 months' siege, remains the first of ever-recurring worries. An obsession, it even takes precedence over the war as a conversational theme, and indeed this is no wonder in a city where butter, eggs, milk, coffee, fish, and fresh meat have long been only memories. The rice, lentils, beans, salted cod, chick-peas, the bread, oil, sugar, salt, the occasional fruit and vegetables are all strictly rationed in quantities barely sufficient for existence. Two and a half years of such a regime has told profoundly on the physique and morale of the population. The work of the only relief organizations operating in Madrid — the Scottish Ambulance Unit, the International and the local Red Cross, the Swiss Aid to Children, and the Save the Children International Union, whose milk and other supplies have saved countless lives threatened by starvation — represents only a fraction of the assistance the town requires if a determined check is to be put on the increasing death-rate and on the rising tide of tuberculosis, psycho-neurosis, and other physical and moral ills ...

There are no public restaurants. In the crowded cafés, which must close by 5, no solid food is served, only a milkless, sugarless malt substitute for coffee, bad liqueurs, and worse wines. By 9 o'clock theatres and cinemas must be closed. No light must shine out of windows, and streets are kept dark. By 10 o'clock, when the once so characteristic night-life was just beginning, a general curfew drives everybody home, and thereafter the nightly password or a special authorization is required in the streets. The question of private property seems to have been relegated for solution when the war is over. Anti-Fascist and foreign landlords retain their property, but, although a decree has reduced rents to about half their pre-war figure, they have to pay full taxes ...

Bargains of the week — from an exotic beachside holiday in Malaysia to a shopping festival in Dubai

FLIGHTS

BUSINESS-CLASS flights to Australia with Malaysia Airlines cost £1,900 through Flight Bookers. The deal is valid all year, if you book by March 31. Details: 0171-757 2468.

■ TRAILFINDERS has a £385 spring special fare to Johannesburg flying Sabena. The deal is valid until May 24, excluding Easter. Details: 0171-938 3939

■ AIR UK has winter-saver fares of £99 return to Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich and Zurich. Milan is priced at £125 and Florence at £139. Details: 0345 666777.

■ VIRGIN ATLANTIC flights to New York, Boston or Washington cost £215 (including tax) if bought before tomorrow. Depart by March 20. Details from Air Tickets Direct 0990 320321.

■ EASTER departures to Toronto from Gatwick, Manchester and Glasgow cost £199 return on selected dates. Details from the charter operator Globespan: 0990 561522.

HOLIDAYS

CRESTA Holidays is making two-centre deals to Italy more affordable by offering free domestic flights between six leading cities. Two nights in Rome and two in Milan this spring cost £413 a person, using Alitalia flights and B&B hotel accommodation. Details: 0990 561814.

■ CITY BREAKS before Easter are available at special prices from American Express Travel Service. Two-night breaks and return flights to Dublin cost £159 a person and to Venice £177. Prague for three nights costs £255. Details: 0345 700400.

■ NORWAY for a week for £299 a person with a flight from Gatwick on March 16 is on offer from Advantage Travel Centres and includes B&B. Details: 0990 881888.

■ THE Malaysia Experience is offering Pangkor Laut beach resort holidays from April 1 to June 15 from £859 a person, including return flights from Heathrow and seven nights' accommodation. Details: 0181-424 9548.

■ DUBAI's shopping festival will be a main attraction on short breaks to the Gulf available from April 10 with Kuoni and costing £289 a person, including return flights and three nights' accommodation. Details: 01306 743000.

■ LATE-SEASON skiing in Meribel is on offer from £399 a person from April 13 for a week with Meriski. Price includes return flights and chalet accommodation. Details: 01451 844788.

■ TURKEY for a week, at a saving of £110 a person, is available from Tapestry Holidays. The flight, from Gatwick on May 4, includes B&B at a hotel with private beach on Turunc Bay. Price £199. Details: 0181-742 0055.

■ TWO CHILDREN go for the price of one on any 1997 United Vacations holiday booked this month. The offer will save families at least £300. A week's fly-drive holiday in Florida in August will cost £619 an adult. The first child costs £389 and the second goes free. Details: 0181-313 0999.

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■ LA CHENEVIÈRE, a French château-style hotel in Normandy, is offering three, four and six-day cooking courses from its resident chef. Cost is from £245 a person, based on double occupancy, and includes food and drink. Details: 00 332 31512525.

■ AN early spring offer is available from more than 40 Quality Hotels and Comfort Inns until the end of March. Average cost is £29.75 a person, based on double occupancy, and including dinner. Details: 0800 444444.

■ HILTON UK has weekend breaks with prices starting from £96 a person for three nights and including discounts on local attractions. Details: 0800 856 8000.

■ STAY two nights over Easter at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Midhurst, Sussex, and get a third night free. Price is from £55 a person a night including dinner and based on double occupancy. Details: 017 30 816911.

■ THE Mayfair Inter-Continental Hotel in central London has relaunched its restaurant under the name Opus 70 with a two-course lunch menu at £16 per head. Details: 0171-344 7070.

■ SEVEN nights for the price of six are available at the Long Bay Hotel, in Antigua, a family-run hotel set on a private estate on the island. Cost, for departures during April and May through CV Travel, is £1,039 a person including flights, transfers and meals. Details: 0171-581 0851.

■ A 20 per cent post-Easter discount is available from Rookery Hall, at Nantwich, Cheshire, from Easter Day until April 3. Dinner, bed and breakfast is reduced from £80 a person a night, based on double occupancy, to £64. Details: 01270 610016.

FERRIES

IRISH FERRIES has a 48-hour special fare from Holyhead to Dublin of £124. Equivalent to a third off standard fares of £186, the offers applies before March 26. Details: 0345 171717.

■ P&O FERRIES is offering 24-hour returns on Dover-Calais as well as day trips. A 24-hour ticket costs £19 a car and £4 a passenger. Day trips cost £15 a car and £1 for each passenger (both carry £10 supplements for Saturday and Bank Holiday travel) until June 30. Details: 0990 980980.

■ STENA Line starts operation of its Lynx fast ferry on the Fishguard-Rosslare route on March 10 and is offering foot passengers day trips for £8 return. A conventional ferry also operates the route. Details: 0990 767676.

■ MOTHERING SUNDAY aboard a ferry to Denmark is offered by Scandinavian Seaways with a minibreak departure from Harwich on March 8. The package, from £79, includes two nights on board and a third on ship or in an Esbjerg hotel. Details: 0990 333111.

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Disney's meal offer

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

THOUSANDS of British holidaymakers to Orlando, Florida, who bought theme-park-admission tickets in advance in the UK are being given free breakfast and lunch vouchers at Walt Disney World restaurants to compensate for the rise in the value of the pound against the dollar.

TicketShop USA, a leading British retailer of Florida theme-park tickets, this week started sending the vouchers to customers who bought tickets earlier this year and have since seen the pound increase in value against the dollar by about 10 per cent.

Maggie Smit, TicketShop's general manager, says: "We thought it was the best way to compensate holidaymakers in the short term."

Each voucher, available at selected Disney restaurants, is worth several dollars.

Keith Prowse, a rival ticket agency, says it has no plans to follow TicketShop's move. "Our ticket prices," a spokeswoman says, "are already the lowest."

Keith Prowse is selling the popular five-day "world-hopper" pass to Disney World for £143, compared with £145.50 by TicketShop. Disney Stores is offering the lowest price this week for an adult five-day pass: £138.50. But this will increase on Saturday to just over £144 after a rise in all Disney admission prices last Sunday.

- *TicketShop USA 0181-995 8225. Keith Prowse 01232 232425.*

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Britons move France to top of holiday list

BY TONY DAWE

THE great return to France by British tourists who deserted the country because of a poor exchange rate and union disputes is gathering pace as once-frequent visitors look for undiscovered areas.

Crystal Holidays, which reports a surge in bookings, says the Tarn in southwest France has shot to fifth place in its list of clients' favourite regions.

The French Tourist Office in London says that inquiries have increased by 20 per cent with growing interest in the lesser-known western provinces of Aquitaine and Charente.

This year's early Easter has helped to boost tourism with thousands booking a late skiing trip over the holiday and others heading for the south of the country to escape the rain and gales.

Camping specialists, including Canvas Holidays and Eurocamp, report a marked increase in bookings after a dismal 1996. Britanny Ferries Holidays, which has taken over the Gites de France programme, says the self-catering market is booming. The company is also promoting out-of-the-way properties, including a windmill in the Midi Pyrenees and a converted dovecote near Auch in the southwest.

Holidaymakers who look *after themselves* in tents or cottages were the first to desert France when each pound would only buy Fr7.70 but with the exchange rate at Fr9.25, they are eager to return.

"Almost every other day brings a record level of bookings," says Debbie Marshall, product director of Crystal France, which specialises in self-drive villa holidays and is offering free *en route* hotel accommodation this year. "We have now achieved 250 bookings in a day and 1997 looks like being a fabulous year.

"While the Dordogne continues to head our top ten list with its stunning scenery, superb food and wine and quality villas, the Tarn has leapt in popularity this year. With its varied scenery, excellent walking and historic towns like Albi and Cordes, it resembles the Dordogne but is like that region used to be before the British discovered it in their thousands."

Marie-Stella Ray, of the Tarn Tourist Board, says wine tours have been introduced to give vistors the chance to taste Gaillac wines and visit vineyards first planted by the Romans. Tours of the fortified *bastide* towns and Albi are also available.

Walking tours of the region are among the holidays featured by Sherpa Expeditions, which specialises in cycling and walking holidays. The first tours of the season start shortly and cost £599 a person including return scheduled flights from London, bed and breakfast in *chambres d'hôtes*, most meals and detailed maps.

Frank McCready, the company's managing director, says: "Our bookings are up about 10 per cent this year but we also had a lot of growth last year as confidence in the British economy returned after three fairly grim years."

Gillian Green, of the French Tourist Office, says: "Calls to our inquiry line have increased by about 20 per cent this year. All sectors of the tourist industry are doing very positively."

THE TOP TEN

1 Dordogne
2 Côte d'Azur
3 South Brittany
4 Languedoc
5 Tarn
6 Loire
7 Vendée
8 Charente
9 North Brittany
10 Côte Basque/Aquitaine

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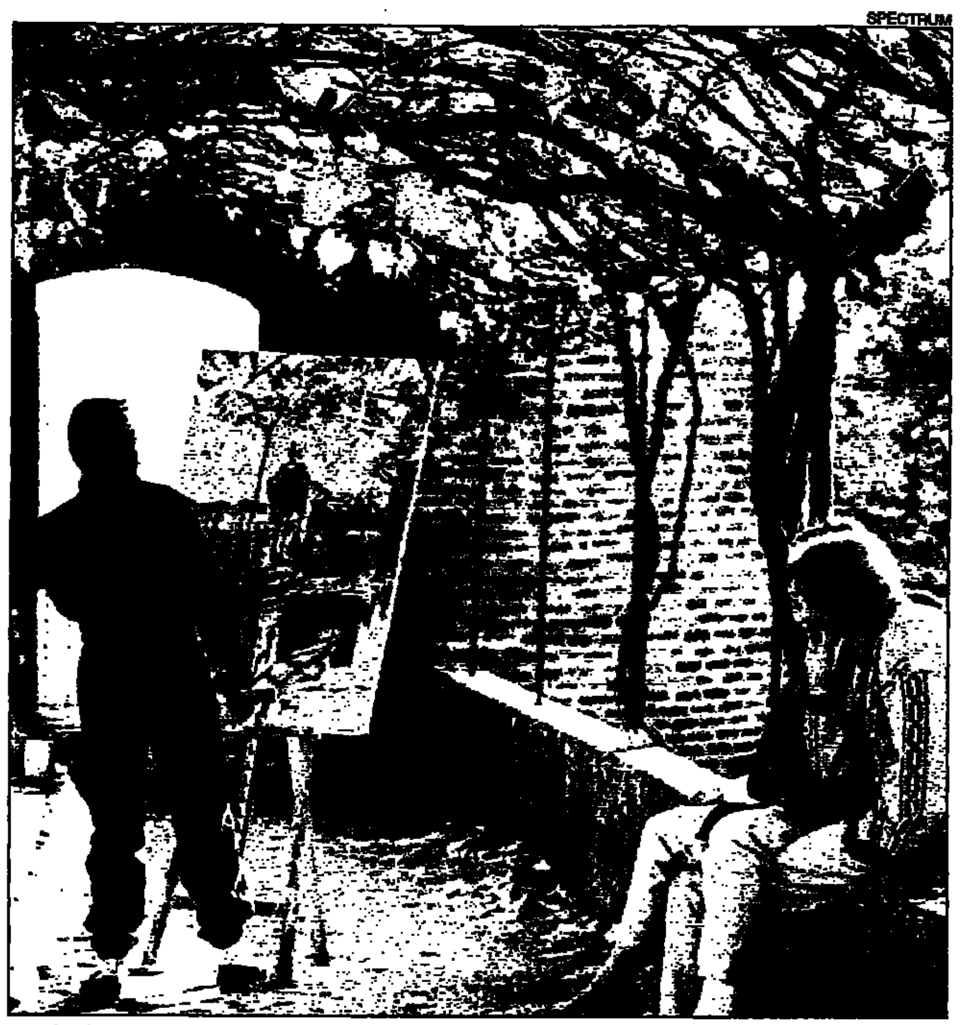


With its scenery, walking and historic towns like Albi, the Tarn is increasingly popular

Channel war resumes

BY STEVE KEENAN

RENEWED competition on Channel ferry fares this summer returned this week after P&O Ferries and Stena Line learnt that a decision on merging their operations out of Dover has been delayed, probably until after the general election. The delay in Monopolies & Mergers Commission recommendations virtually rules out a merger this summer.

Hostilities resumed when P&O offered Dover-Calais returns for £145 until April 30, up to 45 per cent off peak brochure prices of £268 for a car and up to nine passengers. Hoverspeed, meanwhile, is continuing its early booking offer until the end of March.

Stena, Le Shuttle and Sea France are now expected to retaliate, breaking the fragile truce that awaited the MMC recommendation.

Safety deadline hits cruise lines

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

CRUISE ship operators are struggling to beat deadlines for tough new international safety regulations similar to those on commercial airliners. Hundreds of changes are being forced on cruise lines from July in the wake of disasters at sea in which more than 1,000 people died.

These include the provision of smoke detectors, water sprinklers, floor-level lighting to guide passengers towards exits and the isolation of stair wells and open public spaces from the effects of smoke and fire.

Ports around the world have been told to check arriving ships to prevent them from sailing if they have not met the requirements.

Though many have already been modified, it is feared that overstretched shipyards may not be able to complete the work in time. Some shipowners have therefore decided to dispose of their liners rather than pay for the alterations.

It is estimated that it would have cost P&O almost £10 million to bring *Canberra* up to the new standards, so the 36-year-old vessel has been put up for sale. Cunard, meanwhile, has spent more than £12 million on refurbishing the *QE2* to meet the standards, and plans to have the remaining 20 per cent of the work completed by midsummer in time for the 30th anniversary of the launch of the ship.

Saga, which is soon to take delivery of the 32-year-old *Sagafjord* and rename the ship *Saga Rose*, plans to have all the work completed by the end of December at a cost of more than £5 million. And Thomson, the British tour operator, is confident that it can meet the deadlines and is spending at least £3 million on installing new safety equipment to meet the new requirements.

At least six new cruise liners worth more than £1 billion will come onto the market this year and ten more next to cope with the soaring demand for cruising.

Only 91,000 Britons took a sea cruise ten years ago, but this year the number is expected to reach 500,000 and to double again within the next five years.

New British holiday airline takes off

BRITAIN'S newest holiday airline begins operations today with two Boeing 757 flights to Lanzarote from Manchester, *Harvey Elliott writes.* Flying Colours, the third airline started by Errol Cossey, will carry most of the 750,000 customers of Sunset Holidays and Club 18-30, the fast-growing tour operations of the Flying Colour Leisure Group.

Mr Cossey founded both Air Europe and Air 2000 and is credited with changing the face of charter flying by insisting on using only new jet aircraft and by offering the kind of in-flight service previously associated only with scheduled carriers.

Flying Colours, which will have four new Boeing 757s and an Airbus A320, has also negotiated to take over British Airways services from Gatwick to the Caribbean via Tampa, Florida. British Airways is concerned at the low profit margins on many leisure routes from Gatwick and hopes that a lower-cost carrier such as Flying Colours can operate them more efficiently.

PINKERTON'S EYE

LOW RISK

IN separate incidents, at the end of last month, two chlorine gas bombs were planted in eastern suburbs of **Sydney, Australia**, and the toxic fumes injured 23 people. Despite recent explosions, **western China** remains low-risk.

MODERATE RISK

An oil company employee has been kidnapped by presumed Colombian guerrillas in **Venezuela**. An American tourist has been found shot dead about 25 miles west of **Pietersburg, South Africa**. Since the Government's acceptance of early elections, the threat of violence in **Bulgaria** is receding.

HIGH RISK

Kidnapping is a boom industry in **Guatemala**. Travel in rural areas after dark is not advised and inadequate assistance from the police is common. Police in **Old Delhi, India**, describe bombs planted there late last month, wounding at least ten people, as the type used by Muslim separatists rebelling in Kashmir. Tit-for-tat attacks by extremists are rising in **Pakistan**.

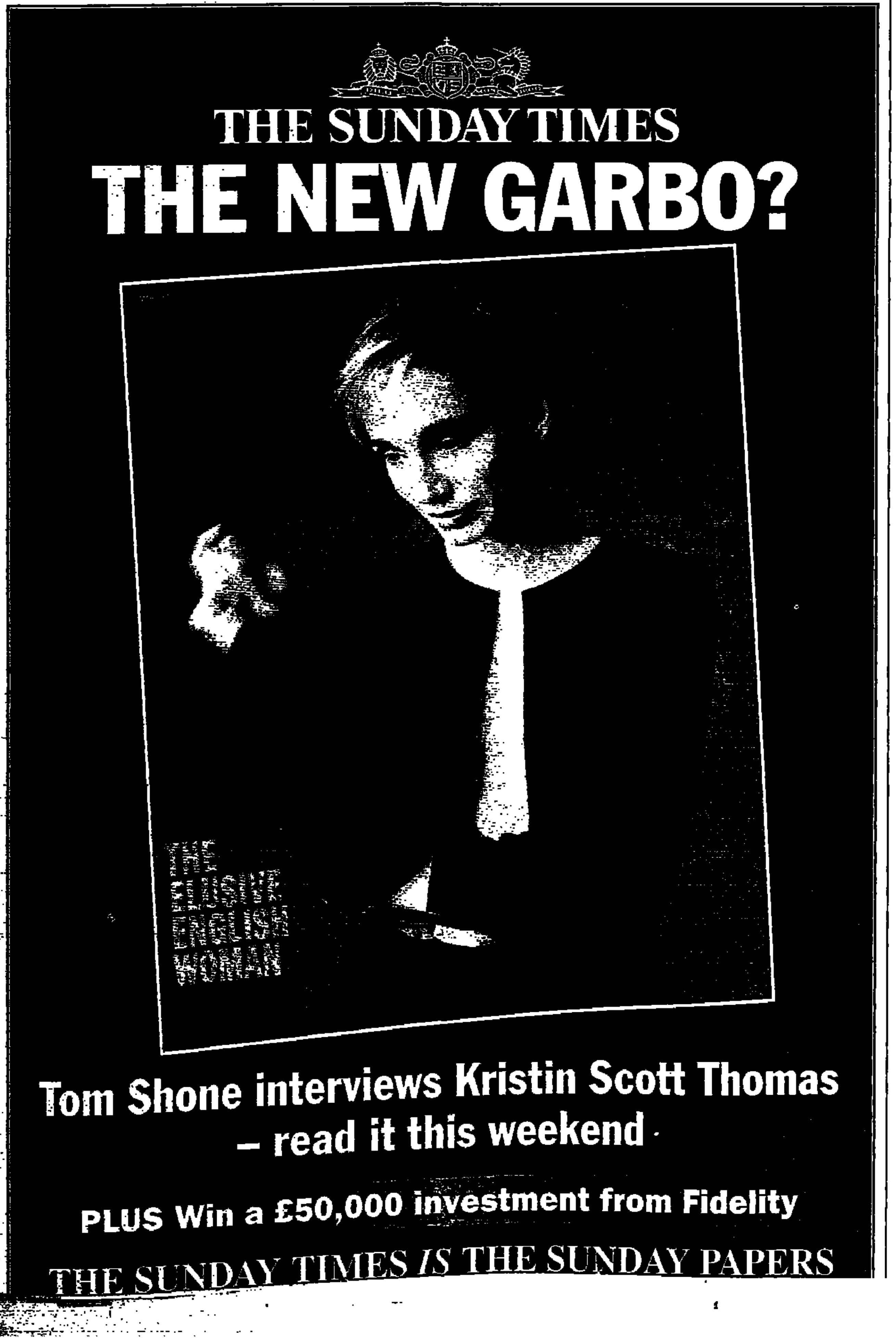
EXTREME RISK

After a particularly violent month of Ramadan in **Algeria**, the Armed Islamic Group has threatened further violence in the run-up to the forthcoming elections.

TENSE DATES

On March 21, Kurds in **Turkey**, **Iraq** and **Iran** will celebrate their new year (Now Ruz). In **Turkey** this date usually signals the beginning of the PKK's spring offensive against the Government. **Pakistan** Day on March 23 could trigger renewed attacks on the Hindu minority by Muslims.

- *Pinkertons 0181-424 8884*



THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE NEW GARBO?

Tom Shone interviews Kristin Scott Thomas – read it this weekend
PLUS Win a £50,000 investment from Fidelity
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THE CHINA SUITE

Four unique itineraries around China based on concessionary tariffs offered by British Airways

The Yangtse Gorges
A 9-day visit from £895.00
The dam across the Yangtse will change everything. Most people are now aware that the Chinese have commenced the preliminary work of constructing a dam across the Yangtse close to the spectacular Three Gorges which has lead to an enormous upsurge in demand for Yangtse cruises to see the Gorges before their character changes for ever. We have secured a few places on a limited number of the 1997 cruises and combined it with concessionary fares from British Airways.
Itinerary in Brief
Day 1 Depart London Heathrow by non-stop flight to Peking.
Day 2 Arrive Peking transfer to the 4-star Xiyuan Hotel. Afternoon city tour including Forbidden City and Summer Palace.
Days 3 - 7 Fly to Wuhan and board the MV Yangtse Paradise for a five-night cruise through the Three Gorges and Little Gorges, calling at Shashi, Wushan, Fengdu to Chongqing.
Day 8 Morning flight to Peking. Afternoon Great Wall visit.
Day 9 Fly to London Heathrow arriving the same day.
1997 Departures & Prices
April 14 £950.00 - May 5 £995.00
May 26 £950.00 - July 7 £895.00
July 28 £950.00 - August 25 £950.00
Single supplement £395.00
Balcony supplement £285.00
Inclusions: transportation throughout, excursions as indicated, full board on cruise, and room and breakfast in Peking. Not included: overseas airport taxes, travel insurance and visa procurement.

The Silk Route Revisited
The Buddhist Treasures at Dunhuang - A 9-day visit from £1250.00
In recent times it has been extremely difficult to reach Dunhuang to see the spectacular Buddhist Grottoes set into a mountainside. The journey often involved long and uncomfortable train journeys which also made the undertaking very expensive. Recently an airport has been constructed close to Liuyuan - the railhead for Dunhuang and regular twice weekly flights operate from Xian to which we have combined with a two-day stay to see the Terracotta Warriors, and Peking for the Great Wall and Ming Tombs. Starting in Xian, the Silk Road followed the Gansu Corridor and across the Taklamakan Desert. The oasis town of Dunhuang was considered to be both the first and last town in China and also the place where Buddhism was introduced into China in 111 BC. The 1000 Buddhist caves contain some of the world's finest Buddhist art. Of the original 1000 caves some 460 still remain.
Itinerary in Brief
Day 1 Fly non-stop to Peking.
Day 2 Arrive Peking in the morning and relax. Afternoon city tour.
Day 3 Fly to Xian stay two nights and visit Bell Tower and Terracotta Warriors.
Days 4 - 7 Fly to Dunhuang and stay three nights visiting the caves and nearby oasis.
Day 8 Fly to Peking and visit the Great Wall.
Day 9 Fly to Heathrow arriving the same day.
1997 Departures & Prices
July 7, 14, 21, 28 - August 4, 11, 18, 25
All departures £1250.00
Single supplement £225.00
Inclusions: transportation throughout, full board, and excursions as indicated. Not included: insurance, visa procurement, overseas airport taxes.

The Middle Kingdom
9 days from £585.00
The arrangement commences with a flight from London Heathrow to Peking followed by seven nights at the 4-star Xiyuan Hotel ideally located for making both independent and organised excursions to the Great Wall, Ming Tombs, Summer Palace, Forbidden City and Peking Zoo. You may also elect to visit China's ancient capital, Xian, to see the Terracotta Warriors.
Itinerary in Brief
Day 1 Depart Heathrow by non-stop flight to Peking.
Day 2 Arrive Peking and transfer to the Xiyuan Hotel for a stay of seven nights.
Days 3 - 8 At leisure in Peking with a wide choice of local sightseeing available. Optional excursion to Xian to see the Terracotta Warriors.
Day 9 Depart Peking arriving London Heathrow the same day.
1997 Departures & Prices
April 7, 14, 21, 28 - May 5, 12, 19, 26
July 7, 14, 21, 28 - August 4, 11, 18, 25
All departures £585.00
Single supplement £155.00
Optional 2-night excursion to Xian including breakfast and sightseeing £275.00 (Single supplement £35.00).
Inclusions: transportation throughout, room only, local guides. Not included: insurance, visa procurement, sightseeing, overseas airport taxes, tips.

The Three Cities Tour of China
Peking, Xian & Shanghai
A 9-day visit from £995.00
This tour takes in the three most popular cities of China, namely Peking (2 nights) flight to Xian (2 nights) flight to Shanghai (2 nights) and finally returning to Peking for the last night before flying home with British Airways. During our stay visits will be made to the Great Wall, Ming Tombs, Summer Palace, Forbidden City, the Terracotta Warriors in Xian, and in Shanghai the famous Bund and Nanking Road. Hotels: Xian: Grand Castle (4 star). Shanghai: Huatin Guest House (3 star).
1997 Departures & Prices
April 7, 14, 21, 28 - May 5, 12, 19, 26
July 7, 14, 21, 28 - August 4, 11, 18, 25
All departures £995.00
Single supplement £175.00
Inclusions: transportation throughout, full board throughout, excursions as indicated. Not included: insurance, visa procurement, overseas airport taxes.
All prices are subject to change and our current Conditions of Booking (a copy of which is available on request) shall apply to all reservations.

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THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Meat safety report 'suppressed'

■ An unpublished report on Britain's meat industry gave a warning a year ago that poor hygiene was putting the public at increasing risk of infection from *E. coli* — the bacterium which recently claimed 20 lives in Scotland.

The report was commissioned by the Meat Hygiene Service, an agency of the Ministry of Agriculture. Publication was suppressed after the authors refused to tone down criticisms contained in the draft version........................Pages 1, 4

£175 tax free pension is Tory target

■ John Major held out the prospect of a tax-free pension of £175 a week for the next generation when he unveiled plans for the biggest overhaul in state pensions for 50 years. The Prime Minister said that everyone would have their own pension scheme to be built up over a working lifetime ..... Pages 1, 8, 9

Princess's logo

The independent streak of Diana, Princess of Wales, has now extended to designing her own logo which distances her still further from the rest of the Royal Family .... Pages 1, 7

Attlee conversion

The grandson of Clement Attlee, the post-war Labour Prime Minister, is to join the Conservatives in the House of Lords....... Page 1

Court fee challenge

The Lord Chancellor was accused of acting outside his powers in a test challenge over the hefty increases in court "entrance" fees he has introduced..................Page 2

Penalty award

Danny Baker, a radio presenter who lambasted a referee over a FA Cup penalty decision, was sacked by the BBC, and the referee will no longer officiate during a Premiership match between the same two sides..................Page 3

Cloning defence

The creation of human clones might bring benefits to mankind and should not be outlawed, the chairman of the authority set up to regulate embryo experiments said .... Page 4

Cruising home

One of the last groups of expatriate civil servants in Hong Kong will invoke a final privilege from the empire when they set sail for home today ....Page 5

Cancer breakthrough

Scientists in Scotland have discovered why the cells in tumours go on multiplying out of control.............................. Page 6

Holy Loch alert

Surveys have shown that Holy Loch in Scotland is contaminated with dangerously high levels of toxic waste and littered with junk after the closure of the US Navy's nuclear submarine base. Page 11

Albania fighting

The state of emergency tightened in Albania, as fighting appeared to intensify in the south and the Government rejected all offers of foreign mediation.....Pages 12, 13

Swiss offer

The Swiss Government has offered to use about £3 billion of Switzerland's gold reserves for a "solidarity foundation" for victims of genocide and catastrophe worldwide .... Page 14

Republican disarray

The Senate's rejection of the cornerstone of the Republican congressional agenda — the proposal to force the Government to balance its budget — has left the party in disarray .... Page 15

Financial star

Macaulay Culkin, now 16, has been granted access to his $7 million (£4.3 million) fortune so that he can attempt to restore the imbalance child-star fame brought to his life........... Page 15

Bring on turtle doves for England

■ The kiwi is the emblem of New Zealand and the bald eagle symbolises the soaring power of the United States but what are their counterparts in Britain? The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds proposes the Scottish crossbill for Scotland, the turtle dove for England, the red kite for Wales and the black guillemot for Northern Ireland ....Page 11

TONY WHITE

Spring was on the ground at Kew Gardens yesterday when two-year-olds James Nicholls and Alice Pinhey admired the crocuses

BUSINESS

Tobacco: BAT Industries has dramatically softened its line on the prospects for a settlement on tobacco litigation ....Page 25

Lonrho: Dieter Bock, the German investor, is severing all links with Lonrho to become a director and shareholder of TrizecHahn, one of the largest property companies in North America ....Page 25

Insurance: Life companies and investment managers have warmly welcomed proposals to privatise pensions, saying the move could boost their annual premium income by hundreds of billions of pounds every year..............Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 2.4 to 4360.1. Sterling fell from 98.5 to 98.1, falling from $1.6170 to 1.6100 and DM2.7643 to 2.7557 ... Page 28

SPORT

Football: Stan Collymore, Liverpool's £8 million forward, is likely to be left out of the team for the European Cup Winners' Cup, first-leg tie with SK Brann in Norway tonight .... Page 48

Rugby union: Arwel Thomas, the Wales stand-off half, will not be fit for the match against England because of a knee injury. Wales name their squad today ....Page 45

Cricket: England will arrive home from New Zealand, the leadership more secure and the team more settled than it has been in years .... Page 46

Motor racing: Damon Hill said he was hoping to drive at the top level for several more years but would be unable to offer a real defence of his title this season............Page 45

ARTS

Best films: Tom Cruise is all heart as a sports agent in *Jerry Maguire*, written and directed by Cameron Crowe with echoes of the old Hollywood fables........................Page 35

Best videos: New out this week is *Stealing Beauty*, Bernardo Bertolucci's charming fable of blossoming sexuality starring Liv Tyler; plus the cult 1967 television series, *The Monkees* .... Page 36

Roaring Forties: Kurt Weill's 1941 Broadway smash *Lady in the Dark* opens on Tuesday at the National Theatre. Can director Francesca Zambelli make the musical's wit work today?.........................Page 37

Bitter and sweet: *Romance, Romance* is the name of a pair of one-act musicals based on cynical short stories ....Page 37

FEATURES

The McAlpine memoirs: Spending Christmas with Margaret Thatcher at Chequers; the day I became an IRA target, plus thoughts on Michael Heseltine.............Page 17

BODY AND MIND

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Willie Carson has retired from racing because his joints can no longer take the strain, but osteoarthritis is not confined to sportsmen........Page 16

BOOKS

Everyone's Invited: Robert Shepherd traces the road to new Labour, and Russell Celyn Jones on Tibor Fischer's new novel........... Page 38

He amused her: Roy Strong on Queen Victoria's Prince Consort, and Roger Scuton on the philosophy of Peter Abelard......... Page 39

TRAVEL

Back to France: British holidaymakers who shunned France because of a poor exchange rate are returning in force — and discovering new areas .... Page 23

Take-off: Britain's newest holiday airline, Flying Colours, starts operations today with two Boeing 757 flights to Lanzarote .... Page 23

LOTTERY NUMBERS

7, 12, 20, 24, 28, 43. Bonus 45.
The estimated jackpot this week is £3,900,000

TV LISTINGS

Preview: There is no shortage of remedies for Britain's weight problem. *Horizon* (BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss on a Hong Kong documentary.......................Page 47

OPINION

The pension plan

Peter Lilley's pension proposals have brought a gust of fresh air into the stale, smoky atmosphere of pre-election politics .... Page 9

Swiss atonement

President Koller's proposals bring home to the Swiss, for the first time, that the Alps do not shield them from world opinion........... Page 9

The dream terrine

Man is the animal that cooks. And good cooking has been an art since the Stone Age. In the Clone Age it has also become a science at the crossing edge .... Page 9

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

If you are not prepared to be a real father, you should not father the child; if you are not prepared to be a real mother, you should not become pregnant.....................Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

Labour's reaction [to the pension plan] was a depressing example of knee-jerk opposition politics at its worst. Several of its claims were either wrong or alarmist .... Page 9

JOHN BRYANT

"If you think I look in good shape, you should have seen me when I was 92," said Everett Hosack, who won three gold medals in Birmingham. "I was as fit as a fiddle up to 92 but now the germs are circling round my waggon" .... Page 46

OBITUARIES

Captain A. J. Baker Cresswell, destroyer commander; **Lord Kinnaird**, 13th Lord; **Dr Guy Wigley**, GLC medical adviser.........Page 21

LETTERS

Devolution; Bishop's prayer for a Labour victory; Nato expansion; David Evans's gaffe...........Page 19

THE PAPERS

If M Chirac thought it was possible to halt the progress of justice, he is wrong. The higher magistrates council report shows that the number of judges who are determined to win and to defend their independence is constantly increasing

— *Le Monde*

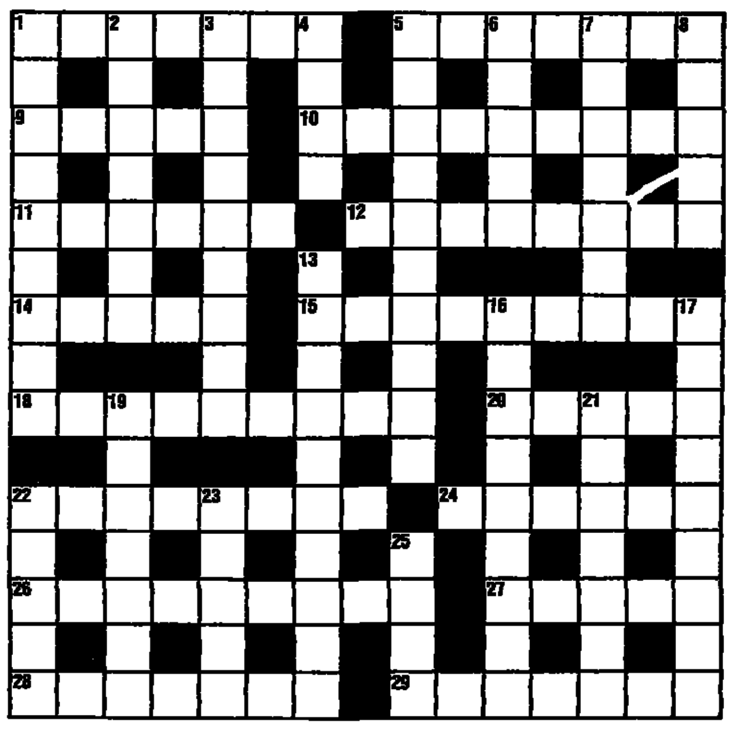
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ POP
Caitlin Moran reveals the real story behind the success of the Spice Girls

■ INTERVIEW
Valerie Grove meets the distinguished actress Claire Bloom

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,420



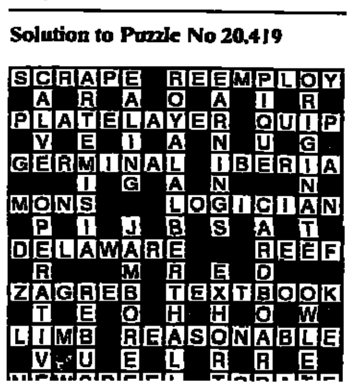
ACROSS

1 Rapture when first of horses comes in, producing share of a large sum (7).
5 Takes risks on business volumes (7).
9 King I held to be a hopeless case (5).
10 To give allure to a girl, some make-up is needed (9).
11 Fat cat finally gets permit (6).
12 Criminal proposal to secure objective (8).
14 Contract's in the bag (5).
15 Damned bad dictionary gone into by people (3-6).
18 Such a picture framed only occasionally? (4-5).
20 Deal with mass hysteria caused by witches here (5).
22 Royal servant speaking for the defence (8).
24 Daughter less polished as artist (6).
26 One new item of furniture appears to get in the way (9).
27 Concealing origin of odour, part of body given a nice smell (5).
28 Technique for one type of fiction (7).
29 Action to recover point by football team in return (7).

DOWN

1 Difficulty getting clothes over belly (5,4).
2 Article representing lunar type of eclipse (7).
3 Soldier captures enemy leader in the flesh (9).
4 Side with slight advantage (4).
5 Dismayed as man gets killed in action (4-6).
6 Made to capture rook, but one can mate with the queen (5).
7 Taken to task about secret (7).
8 Absolute monarch succeeding female (5).
13 Hear wild animal'd go free from circus (10).
16 Wrongdoer's crimes disturbed social worker (9).
17 Am created free, but have to set limits (9).
19 Prophet from a church in African country (7).
21 Mean to get the information (3-4).
22 Falstaff's crony, with hollow legs? (5).
23 Name many held in Jerusalem? (5).
25 A lot of cows belonging to another dairy (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,419



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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Minehead, Somerset, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland Islands, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, 0.36in; highest sunshine: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, 5.3hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** a ridge of high pressure will cross southern Britain. Late in the day weather fronts will approach the northwest of Scotland.

Many places in England and Wales will have a clear frosty start, perhaps only Kent and other southeastern counties will be frost free. During the day it will be dry and bright with lengthy sunny periods.

Most places in Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a bright day after a clear frosty start. In central and east Scotland and Northern Ireland there will be much sunshine. Northwest Scotland and Shetland will have a few showers. Western areas will become increasingly cloudy.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England:** frosty, then sunny and dry. Winds light, west or southwest. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney:** frosty start, sunny periods, dry by day. Winds moderate or fresh southwest. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Argyll, N Ireland:** frosty start. Sunny periods then clouding over from west. Winds freshening from southwest later. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **NW Scotland:** bright, sunny intervals, isolated showers then dry. Cloud increasing in afternoon, outbreaks of rain later. Winds fresh or strong southwest. Mild. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Shetland:** bright or sunny, a few showers. Winds freshening from southwest. Mild. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** dry, sunny, overnight frost. Cloudier, windier in far north.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

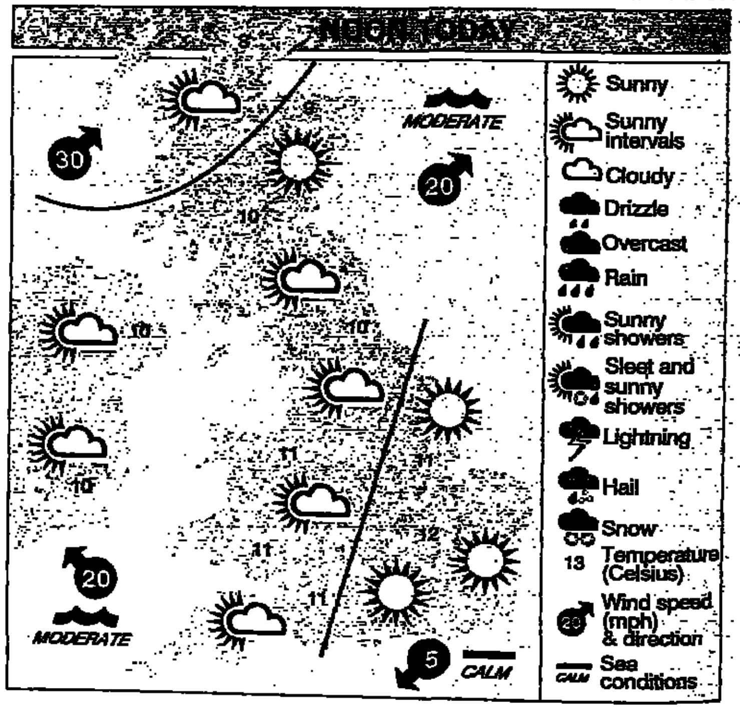
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X				
Anglesey	0.1	0.14	9	48	r
Aspatria	2.2	0.18	9	48	r
Aviemore	2.3	0.06	9	48	sh
Belfast	2.2	0.05	11	52	r
Birmingham	4.0	0.02	13	55	r
Bognor R	1.3	0.02	11	52	r
Bournem'th	-	0.05	10	50	d
Bristol	0.4	0.01	11	52	r
Buxton	2.0	0.13	8	46	s
Cardiff	-	0.02	10	50	d
Clacton	3.3	0.01	10	50	b
Colwyn Bay	X				
Cromer	3.8	0.01	11	52	b
Dunbar	X				
Edinburgh	2.0	0.03	10	50	r
Eskdalemuir	-	0.20	8	46	r
Exmouth	0.8	0.01	11	52	d
Falmouth	-	0.02	11	52	d
Fishguard	0.1	0.11	10	50	r
Folkestone	3.5	-	11	52	b
Glasgow	2.7	0.13	10	50	r
Guernsey	-	0.04	12	54	d
Hastings	1.5	0.01	10	50	du
Hayling I.	0.7	0.05	11	52	r
Herne Bay	2.4	0.01	11	52	s
Hove	0.8	X	9	48	sh
Hunstanton	X	0.02	11	52	s
Isle of Man	0.1	0.11	10	50	r
Jersey	0.3	0.02	10	50	r
Kinloss	0.8	0.06	10	50	r
Leeds	2.5	0.01	12	54	r
Lerwick	-	0.13	7	45	r
Leuchars	1.3	0.01	11	52	r
Littlehmptn	0.6	0.03	11	52	sh
London	3.1	0.03	13	55	b
Lowestoft	3.9	0.01	10	50	c
Manchester	1.7	0.05	12	54	r
Margate	2.0	0.01	11	52	
Minehead	3.5	0.01	13	55	s
Morecambe	0.1	-	10	50	r
Newcastle	3.2	0.01	11	52	r
Newquay	-	0.02	12	54	d
Norwich	2.0	-	11	52	b
Oxford	0.3	0.01	11	52	r
Penzance	X	0.03	13	55	d
Poole	-	0.04	11	52	r
Prestatyn	X	0.01	12	54	r
Ross-o-wye	2.3	0.03	11	52	d
Ryde	X				
Salcombe	-	0.07	11	52	d
Sandown	0.8	0.02	11	52	b
Saunton Snd	-	0.01	10	50	du
Scarboro'	2.6	0.01	11	52	c
Shrewsbury	1.7	0.01	11	52	r
Skegness	4.2	0.06	12	54	s
Southend	X				
Southport	X				
Stornoway	5.3	0.36	8	46	h
Swanage	0.1	0.09	10	50	r
Teignmouth	1.1	0.01	11	52	d
Tenby	-	0.06	10	50	d
Tiree	4.4	0.13	9	48	sh
Torquay	0.8	0.04	11	52	d
Tynemouth	-	0.01	11	52	
Ventnor	1.6	0.05	9	48	fg
West-s-mare	X				
Weymouth	-	0.22	10	50	d

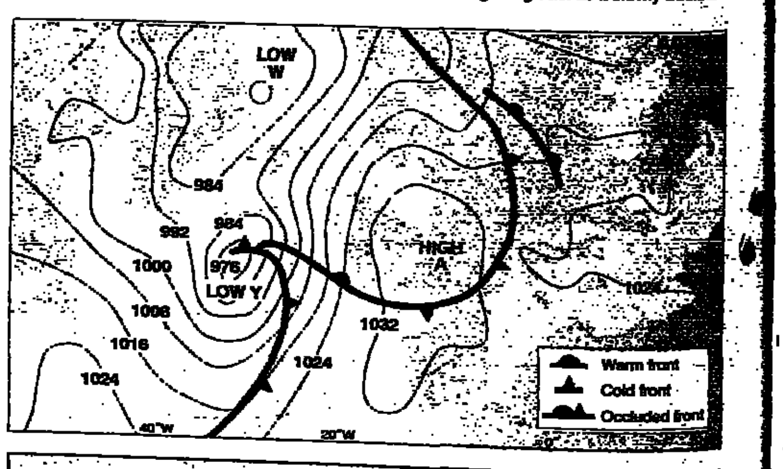
ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	c
Akrotiri	18	64	s
Alex'dria	19	66	f
Algiers	19	66	s
Amst'dm	10	50	c
Athens	21	70	s
B Aires	26	79	f
Bahrain	23	73	s
Bangkok	32	90	s
Barbados	28	82	f
Barcelona	16	61	s
Beirut	15	59	f
Belgrade	10	50	f
Berlin	10	50	s
Bermuda	23	73	f
Biarritz	17	63	s
Borde'x	18	64	s
Brussels	14	57	f
Budapest	7	45	f
Cairo	18	64	c
Cape Tn	X	X	X
Ch'church	X	X	X
Chicago	4	39	f
Cologne	10	50	r
Corfu	19	66	s
C'phagn	9	48	s
Dublin	8	46	c
Dubrovnik	19	66	f
Faro	19	66	s
Florence	9	48	c
Frankfurt	9	48	c
Funchal	17	63	f
Geneva	X	X	X
Gibraltar	17	63	f
Helsinki	4	39	f
Hong K	16	61	s
Innsbrck	7	45	r
Istanbul	9	48	f
Jeddah	26	79	s
Jo'burg	X	X	X
L Angels	X	X	X
L Palmas	25	77	s
Le Tquet	13	55	f
Lisbon	19	66	s
Locarno	X	X	X
Luxembg	11	52	f
Luxor	22	72	s
Madrid	18	64	s
Majorca	17	63	s
Malaga	18	64	s
Malta	21	70	s
Melb'rne	18	64	c
Mexico C	24	75	s
Miami	28	82	s
Milan	19	66	s
Montreal	-5	23	fg
Moscow	4	39	s
Munich	11	52	c
N Delhi	22	72	s
N York	2	36	f
Nairobi	28	82	s
Naples	17	63	s
Nice	14	57	s
Oslo	11	52	s
Paris	15	59	f
Peking	18	64	s
Perth	26	79	s
Prague	9	48	s
Reykjavik	3	37	sl
Rhodes	18	64	s
Rio de J	28	82	f
Riyadh	31	88	s
Rome	18	64	s
S Fr'isco	10	50	s
S Paulo	28	82	c
Salzburg	8	46	r
Santiago	29	84	s
Seoul	9	48	f
Sing'por	31	88	f
St'kholm	7	45	s
Strasb'rg	15	59	c
Sydney	25	77	f
Tangier	19	66	s
Tel Aviv	17	63	r
Tenerife	25	77	s
Tokyo	11	52	s
Toronto	1	34	c
Tunis	19	66	f
Valencia	22	72	s
Vanc'ver	5	41	f
Venice	17	63	s
Vienna	5	41	f
Warsaw	8	46	s
Wash'ton	8	46	c
Wel'ngton	18	64	X
Zurich	X	X	X

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low Y will deepen quickly as it speeds northeast, amalgamating with low W on Friday; high A will be transient, gliding east as it slowly declines



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.21	6.5	23.52	6.6
Aberdeen	11.00	3.9	23.40	4.1
Avonmouth	04.27	11.8	17.01	12.1
Belfast	08.28	3.2	21.04	3.2
Cardiff	04.13	10.9	16.47	11.3
Devonport	02.50	4.8	15.34	4.8
Dover	08.30	6.0	21.02	6.2
Dublin (N Wall)	09.09	3.9	21.48	4.0
Falmouth	02.21	4.6	15.05	4.6
Greenock	10.13	3.1	22.28	3.1
Harwich	09.17	3.6	21.45	3.6
Holyhead	07.56	5.1	20.31	5.2
Hull (Albert D)	03.48	7.7	16.08	7.9
Ilfracombe	03.21	8.0	15.54	8.3
King's Lynn	03.52	5.7	16.11	6.0

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	-	-	12.15	5.0
Liverpool	08.44	8.6	21.18	8.7
Lowestoft	07.04	2.8	19.14	2.3
Margate	09.32	4.3	21.54	4.4
Milford Haven	03.36	6.0	16.09	6.2
Newquay	02.33	6.1	15.05	6.2
Oban	03.39	3.5	16.09	3.4
Penzance	01.59	4.9	14.31	4.9
Portland	04.06	1.6	16.48	1.6
Portsmouth	08.59	4.2	21.34	4.4
Shoreham	08.41	5.8	21.17	5.9
Southampton	08.15	4.1	20.51	4.2
Swansea	03.39	8.4	16.14	8.7
Tees	01.03	4.7	13.24	4.9
Walton-on-N	09.15	3.8	21.41	3.8

All times GMT Heights in metres

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.35 am
Sun sets: 5.50 pm
Moon sets 2.43 pm
Moon rises 4.51 am
New moon March 9

London 5.50 pm to 6.33 am
Bristol 5.58 pm to 6.42 am
Edinburgh 5.58 pm to 6.49 am
Manchester 5.56 pm to 6.43 am
Penzance 6.12 pm to 6.53 am

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THURSDAY MARCH 6 1997

BAT to consider settling lawsuits in US

By Marianne Curphey

BAT Industries is ready to consider a possible settlement of the multimillion-dollar tobacco lawsuits it faces in America.

Martin Broughton, chief executive, said: "The on-going cost in legal terms and the impact on the share price is such that we think it sensible and appropriate to evaluate a settlement." He put the legal costs at $100 million in 1996, saying that these could rise in the next two years.

A sensible settlement would be one that covered all current and future claims and was approved by Congress and the White House, he said.

BAT also appears to have altered its stance on a possible demerger of its tobacco and financial services interests.

Lord Cairns, chairman, said: "We are not wedded to the structure we have at the moment because it is the structure we have inherited. We have an open mind. If the results are better for the shareholders and move the business forward, we will do it."

Some analysts had hoped BAT would announce yesterday that it was seeking an industry-wide settlement of anti-smoking litigation after a series of court cases in the US.

Mr Broughton said he would be willing to consider proposals for a settlement to cut off the possibility of any future claims, but he did not intend to set out terms for BAT or for the industry as a whole.

BAT shares fell 19½p to 530p, which analysts blamed on profit-taking and City disappointment over year-end profits. Pre-tax profit for the 12 months to December was £2.495 billion (£2.384 billion). This included a charge of £160 million as provision for the costs of environmental claims in the US against Eagle Star, one of BAT's insurance companies.

The underlying profit from continuing operations increased 7 per cent. Lord Cairns said it had been a difficult year for the insurance business and overseas earnings had been affected by the strength of sterling to the tune of £30 million. Earnings per share grew 2 per cent to 48.6p. The dividend is up 2p to 26p.

BAT's tobacco businesses produced a 7 per cent overall improvement in local currency, with trading profit rising to £1.6 billion. Financial services grew by an underlying 8 per cent to £1.2 billion.

Lord Cairns declined to comment on speculation that BAT had tried to tempt Commercial Union, the composite insurer, into a merger with Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star.

BAT is concerned that continuing litigation has kept down the share price. Analysts believe that the stock could be worth 700p if a settlement were reached.

Mr Broughton said: "The on-going cost in legal terms and the impact on the share price is such that we think it sensible and appropriate to evaluate a settlement."

Pennington, page 27

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Lord Cairns, chairman, said it had been a difficult year for the insurance business and overseas earnings had been affected by the strength of sterling to the tune of £30 million

Life firms welcome pensions proposals

By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent

LIFE companies and investment managers have welcomed proposals to privatise pensions, saying the move could boost their annual premium income by hundreds of billions of pounds every year.

Their enthusiasm was, however, tempered by warnings that no company would be willing to run a new scheme unless products were simple and cheap to administer.

Privatised pensions are likely to be run by a select group of preferred providers approved and regulated by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA).

Competition for inclusion will be fierce in an industry that is cut-throat, and many casualties are expected. Total pension provision in the UK is already worth £600 billion. Unsuccessful companies might include small life insurers with high expense ratios.

The beneficiaries of a low-cost, mass-market product will be big mutual life companies, unit trust and fund managers and direct insurance companies, all of which will be able to cope with administering tens of thousands of policy documents with minimum expense.

Standard Life, one of Europe's largest insurers, could be among the successful bidders for business. Andrew Black, marketing manager, said: "There will be big winners and big losers, and the losers are likely to disappear in an industry which is already consolidating."

Andrew Warwick-Thompson, of Bacon & Woodrow, who tracks the performance of pension providers, said: "The market will be worth many billions, and the big fund managers will be serious about breaking into the market." He predicts powerful fund managers and unit trust providers such as Schroders, Mercury Asset Management and Gartmore will in future poach market share from traditional life companies.

Clive Boothman, director of Schroder Unit Trusts, said: "We are certainly interested in providing investment links for pensions. Companies will need a very efficient administrative system to deal with tens of thousands of small amounts of money from employees and employers. The onus is on the Government to make products simple, so that costs can be kept down to a 1 per cent management fee."

New entrants selling pensions by telephone also see the proposals as an opportunity. Tony Wood, marketing director of Virgin Direct, described the proposals as "very exciting". He said: "This is a great opportunity, but also a major responsibility."

Liberty International Pensions, which has a new direct pension product, voiced concerns over how the Government scheme would be regulated. Marc Hommel, director, said: "Policing the scheme will be very important. This is a challenge and an opportunity for the industry and presents a threat to some of the traditional providers which have high costs."

The Confederation of British Industry said its review, to be concluded by the autumn, would be looking at the main alternative proposals for change, including those set out by the Government.

The TUC and the GMB union gave warning that a new pensions scandal could be imminent. John Monks, TUC General Secretary, said: "The greatest financial scandal of modern times has been the mis-selling of personal pensions and the failure of the guilty companies to provide prompt and full compensation. Yet the Government wants to reward them with more business and more opportunities to rip off customers."

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Ex-Barings chief sues for £350,000

By Robert Miller, banking correspondent

A FORMER head of corporate finance of ING Barings is suing his previous employer for a bonus payment worth at least £350,000.

A High Court writ lodged in London by Richard Orders, who joined Barings in September 1976, said he took up an appointment as head of corporate finance for the Asia region in April 1994 and was relocated to Hong Kong. After the £830 million crash of Barings two years ago and its subsequent rescue by ING, of The Netherlands, Mr Orders kept his position.

In his writ, lodged by Cameron Markby Hewitt, the City law firm, Mr Orders said he had received a letter on March 17, 1995, thanking him for his contribution and informing him that he had been awarded a £175,000 bonus.

Mr Orders's writ alleges that in December 1995, without warning, he was told that David Hudson had been appointed to replace him and that he should return to London as director of the UK/European corporate finance department.

However, it became apparent that a key piece of business from the Swire Pacific Group would not be obtained unless Mr Orders was involved. The writ says that it was agreed that the former ING Barings executive would stay in Hong Kong until no later than March 1996 and that he would be paid a cash bonus of £350,000. Further, he was told by letter he would be paid a cash bonus of 10 per cent of revenues earned from various deals including Swire Pacific and Cable and Wireless. Mr Orders resigned from Barings in July 1996.

Last year, Mary Walz, a former Barings executive, sued the bank unsuccessfully for an unpaid £500,000 bonus.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4360.1	(+2.4)
Yield	3.66%	
FTSE All share	2128.32	(+1.94)
Nikkei	18273.51	(−291.27)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6890.82	(+38.10)*
S&P Composite	795.76	(+4.81)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$5\frac{1}{8}$%*	($5\frac{1}{16}$%)
Long Bond	$96\frac{15}{16}$*	($96\frac{23}{32}$)
Yield	6.87%*	(6.87%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	$6\frac{9}{32}$%	($6\frac{1}{8}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	$111\frac{27}{32}$	($112\frac{5}{8}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6113*	(1.6140)
London:		
$	1.6098	(1.6172)
DM	2.7548	(2.7644)
FFr	9.2935	(9.3234)
SFr	2.3635	(2.3981)
Yen	195.42	(197.01)
£ Index	98.1	(98.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.1728*	(1.7135)
FFr	5.7810*	(5.7795)
SFr	1.4810*	(1.4865)
Yen	121.58*	(122.18)
$ Index	104.1	(104.1)

Tokyo close Yen 121.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$19.00	($19.15)

GOLD

London close	$352.00	($359.80)

* denotes midday trading price

Taste

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery group, is showing the strongest signs yet that it is looking to make a substantial acquisition, saying it could afford to spend £2 billion.
Page 27, Tempus 28

Squeeze

BICC, the construction group, says the squeeze on government spending in Europe to fit economies for monetary union has prolonged the construction slump. Page 30

Bock severs links with Lonrho

By Eric Reguly

DIETER BOCK announced yesterday that he is ending his relationship with Lonrho to become a director and shareholder of TrizecHahn, one of the largest office building and shopping mall companies in North America.

Mr Bock has agreed to sell all of the assets of Advanta Management, his property company, in exchange for $147 million of TrizecHahn voting shares, equivalent to a 4 per cent equity stake. He is to become vice-chairman of TrizecHahn and president of its European operations when he retires as non-executive director and deputy chairman of Lonrho this month.

Peter Munk, chief executive of TrizecHahn, based in Toronto, said that he courted Mr Bock to help give TrizecHahn fast exposure to the European market. He said that Mr Bock has "five projects...which we could not possibly assemble on our own", and offers "total familiarity with the property market in Europe".

Dieter Bock will offer his European property expertise

The Advanta portfolio includes Number 1 Poultry, the commercial development in the City of London that occupies the site of the former Mappin & Webb building, and the Taschenbergpalais, the historic palace in Dresden that was rebuilt after the Second World War.

Under Mr Bock, TrizecHahn will initially concentrate on shopping mall developments in Europe, said Mr Munk.

TrizecHahn's goal, he said, is to become the "Barrick of the property industry," referring to TrizecHahn's controlling stake in Barrick, the second largest gold producer in the world. About $1.2 billion has been set aside for European property projects.

Mr Bock stepped down as chief executive of Lonrho last year and sold his 18.3 per cent stake in the company to Anglo American Corp of South Africa. He no longer owns any Lonrho shares but has said that he might become a shareholder of Lonrho's African trading operations once they are spun off.

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Into the sunset, page 29

City star at heart of Nomura inquiry

By Jon Ashworth and Robert Miller

ONE of the City's most successful stockbrokers could be called to give evidence in connection with a A$600 million (£290 million) share deal on the Australian Stock Exchange.

Robert Mapstone, former co-head of equities at Nomura International in London, initiated the arbitrage trade, which triggered an international investigation.

The Australian Securities Commission (ASC) is taking Nomura to court for alleged market manipulation. It alleges that Nomura engaged in "misleading and deceptive conduct", and has accused Nomura of "wash trading" — trading in securities in which it was both buyer and seller. The ASC, said to be under political pressure to improve a poor prosecution record, began proceedings in the Federal Court last week. The case is based on the events of March 29 last year, when Nomura unwound a large arbitrage position by allowing 12,844 March 1996 Share Price Index (SPI) futures contracts to expire. It simultaneously ordered the sale of A$600 million of securities.

The transaction was initiated by Mr Mapstone in London, and carried out by Duncan Moss, a Nomura trader in Hong Kong. The sell order triggered a 25-point fall in the stock market index.

At the time, Mr Mapstone said the trades were "a normal piece of business", and said: "We do it in markets all around the world, but we always act within the rules."

There is no suggestion that Mr Mapstone profited improperly from the transaction. It occurred shortly before the benchmarking of Nomura's annual bonuses. The Bank of England, which has been kept informed of events, this week warned the market that bonus targets could encourage traders to take undue risks.

Mr Mapstone, who left Nomura last July, is said to have taken an extended holiday in South Africa, and was unavailable for comment. A keen rugby player, he was recruited to shake-up Nomura's London equity division, but left after just two years following a disagreement over strategy.

The former Nomura executive was regarded in City circles as "very successful", and as such would have enjoyed handsome bonuses.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the watchdog for brokers and futures dealers in the UK, is understood to be keeping a watching brief, and has supplied detailed information to the ASC.

Nomura declined to comment.

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Loss-making T&N to cut 1,400 jobs worldwide

By Carl Mortished

T&N, the UK automotive components company, yesterday announced 1,400 job cuts worldwide as it reported year-end losses of £388 million before tax for 1996.

The losses, which compared with profits of £120 million in 1995, arise from a £515 million provision and insurance premium aimed at ring-fencing future liability to asbestos injury claims.

The job losses, mainly in continental Europe, will cost £25 million and are at the centre of a a further restructuring at T&N, which is suffering from weakness in the European vehicle markets.

Competitive pressures in piston and friction products cut T&N's operating margins from 11 per cent to 9 per cent last year. Before exceptional charges and asbestos provisions, operating profit from continuing businesses fell £31 million to £173 million. The company blamed half of the decline on destocking and redundancy costs.

T&N may be on the verge of securing a strategic position in the world's piston market following a German industrial group's purchase of a 24.9 per cent stake in Kolbenschmidt, the piston-maker courted by T&N, which sees Kolbenschmidt as the key to its bid for leadership in pistons.

Sir Colin Hope, T&N chairman, considering a joint venture with a German firm

The share purchase by Rheinmetall was treated as positive yesterday by T&N's management, which is expecting a court ruling soon that will permit it to exercise an option over a separate 24.9 per cent stake in Kolbenschmidt.

Sir Colin Hope, chairman of T&N, said that Rheinmetall was one of the companies that T&N had been talking to in a bid to resolve the problem over the future of Kolbenschmidt. He said that he would not exclude a joint venture. However, Rheinmetall said yesterday that it was seeking a majority interest in Kolbenschmidt.

T&N's 1996 losses wiped out distributable reserves and the company has effected a capital reduction to eliminate the deficit on its profit and loss account. As a result, T&N will pay a special interim dividend of 3p in May in lieu of the 1996 final dividend.

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Houses gain 0.5% in February

By Gavin Lumsden

HOUSE prices recovered from the slight downturn in January to give a seasonally adjusted rise of 0.5 per cent last month, according to the Halifax Building Society.

The Halifax said that the latest figure confirmed that the January fall was a one-off adjustment after big rises in the last quarter of 1996.

However, on an annual basis, house price inflation has slowed from 7.1 per cent to 6.8 per cent. With the quarterly trend showing 1.7 per cent growth in prices, Halifax said, the housing market was recovering at a moderate pace and was within its end-of-year forecast of 7 per cent.

Prices for first-time buyers rose sharply, by 2.1 per cent, offsetting a 2 per cent fall in January. First-time buyers are now paying £48,168, on average, 5 per cent up on a year ago, against a £66,612 seasonally adjusted price for all houses.

New houses fetch £71,757 on average, nearly £6,000 more than existing homes. However, price rises here continue to lag the main market, with figures showing an annual rise of 5.8 per cent and a quarterly trend of 0.8 per cent.

CWS denial exerts more pressure on Lanica Trust

By Alasdair Murray

PRESSURE mounted on Lanica Trust to clarify its position to the Stock Exchange after the Co-operative Wholesale Society denied it was in talks with the investment company about the sale of some of its assets.

The CWS made the statement through the Stock Exchange after a board meeting. The co-operative said that it had not entered into discussions with Lanica and that it has "no intention of doing so".

Lanica is locked in talks with the Stock Exchange over market rumours about possible acquisitions, which led to a jump in its share price from 150p in October to £19.50 when the shares were suspended a month ago.

With no deals imminent at Lanica, the shares are likely to plummet when the company is relisted, although a date for a return to the market has yet to be finalised. Lanica's only business asset is a specialised mail order business valued substanially below the company's £100 million market capitalisation.

The jump in the share price began after Andrew Regan, chief executive, took over New Guernsey Securities Trust, an offshore investment trust. Mr Regan said he was aiming to turn the trust, which was renamed as Lanica, into an industrial holding company.

Market rumours linked Lanica with a reverse takeover by Littlewoods' retail businesses — which Littlewoods later denied — as well as with CWS.

Bank signals 6% rate

By Janet Bush, economics editor

THE Bank of England signalled that base rates remain at 6 per cent after yesterday's monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank.

There was little surprise when the Bank dealt at unchanged rates in its normal daily money market operations. In a poll of 20 economists by Reuters earlier this week, not one had expected base rates to be raised.

The Bank has been pressing for base rate to be increased by a quarter point for some months, arguing that, without this move, the Government will miss its inflation target in two years' time.

The Chancellor has made it equally clear that he sees no need for a rise in rates given sterling's strength and a run of excellent figures for costs and prices in industry.

The news that rates were left unchanged had little impact on the markets, although the pound dropped back from Monday's peaks on profit-taking.

Sterling's effective index against a basket of currencies finished at 98.1 compared with 98.5 on Monday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Former regulator to join board of CWC

SIR BRYAN CARSBERG, the former Director-General of Fair Trading and the first Director-General of Communications, is joining the board of Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC), one of British Telecom's main competitors, as a non-executive director. Sir Bryan, 58, now secretary-general of the International Accounting Standards Committee, becomes one of three non-executive directors. The others are Valerie Gooding, managing director of Bupa, and John Keenan, chief executive of International Distillers & Vinters and a director of Grand Metropolitan.

C&W will own about about 53 per cent of CWC, which will embrace Nynex and Bell CableMedia. Shareholders of Nynex and Bell CableMedia will be asked to swap their shares for shares in CWC. The flotation, expected to value the group at about £5 billion, is scheduled for late spring.

BT charges attacked

THE majority of domestic telephone users would still be better off switching from BT, in spite of its discount schemes, according to the Consumers' Association. In a report out today, it says that BT was the most expensive option and users could make up to 20 per cent savings with other companies. In its magazine *Which?*, the association said that it had analysed hundreds of millions of BT calls and samples of itemised billing from Telewest, the cable company. *Which?* said 95 per cent of people who had left BT did not regret the move.

Revenue 'under cloud'

A QUARTER of finance directors have lost faith in the Inland Revenue in the wake of the recent trial of Michael Allcock, the tax investigator jailed for taking bribes, according to a survey by *Accountancy Age* and Reed Accountancy Personnel. The 200 finance chiefs said the affair was a "poor reflection of the Revenue's management control". The survey found a quarter also believed Allcock was "unlikely to be an isolated incident". However, 54 per cent of those polled said that Allcock had not weakened their faith in the system.

Compass stake cut

ACCOR, the French hotels company, is cutting its stake in Compass Group, the UK catering company, to 10 per cent from 21.5 per cent. Accor acquired the shares after it sold Eurest, a catering business, to Compass in September 1995. It has agreed not to sell further shares for at least 12 months. Compass shares fell 27½p to 715p on news of the disposal. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, is coordinating the placing of shares with institutional investors.

Raids by City police

CITY OF LONDON Police have raided 11 homes in London in a two-day operation. The early morning raids, concluded yesterday, were conducted by members of the City police's financial investigation unit. Search warrants were obtained under the Drug Trafficking Act in relation to alleged money laundering offences. One man has been detained for questioning and papers and files relating to financial matters and deals were seized in the raids. Further arrests are expected.

Boost for consultancy

ANDERSEN CONSULTING, the management and technology consultancy, lifted net revenues 26 per cent to $5.3 billion, it reported yesterday. The company, which lists more than half the *Fortune* Global 500 companies as clients, said a business region that embraces Europe, the Middle East, Africa and India lifted revenues 32 per cent to $1.9 billion. Asia/Pacific revenues rose 21 per cent to $509 million while the Americas rose 22 per cent to $2.9 billion.

Warning by Ronson

RONSON, the lighters and accessories producer, gave warning that it expects to incur a £1 million pre-tax loss for 1996, against a profit of £4.02 million in 1995. It said it had only succeeded in claiming 60 per cent of the damages ran up last year when one of its factories was damaged by fire. It also named Laurie Todd as its finance director, replacing David Moffat who resigned in November. Mr Todd was formerly finance director at Innovations Group.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.14	1.98	Malta	0.660	0.605
Austria Sch	20.36	18.86	Netherlds Gld	3.245	3.015
Belgium Fr	59.73	55.43	New Zealand $	2.44	2.22
Canada $	2.312	2.152	Norway Kr	11.74	10.94
Cyprus Cyp£	0.855	0.800	Portugal Esc	287.50	269.00
Denmark Kr	11.07	10.27	S Africa Rd	7.78	6.98
Finland Mkk	8.80	8.15	Spain Pta	244.50	227.50
France Fr	9.69	9.04	Sweden Kr	12.94	12.14
Germany Dm	2.91	2.70	Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.33
Greece Dr	449	423	Turkey Lira	209000	195000
Hong Kong $	13.12	12.12	USA $	1.711	1.581
Iceland	120	100			
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00			
Israel Shk	5.71	5.06			
Italy Lira	2870	2695			
Japan Yen	210.20	194.20			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

A STRONG YEAR OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

"Cadbury Schweppes produced record turnover, profits, margins and earnings and generated £137m free cash in 1996 against a background of organic expansion and acquisition.

1996 RESULTS

	1996 £m	1995 £m	% Change
Sales	5,115	4,776	+ 7
Trading Profit	671	600	+12
Pre-Tax Profit*	592	511	+16
Underlying Free Cash Flow	137	100	+37
	Pence	Pence	
Earnings per Share (FRS 3)	34.1	31.3	+ 9
Underlying EPS*	34.1	29.9	+14
Dividend per Share	17.0	16.0	+ 6

A final dividend of 11.8p is proposed which, with the interim of 5.2p already paid, makes a total of 17p per share for the year.

*Excluding disposal profits in 1995 of £15 million (£14 million after tax).

We are a truly global business operating in growth markets all around the world.

In the US, Dr Pepper continues to outperform the soft drinks market and it is being launched internationally into new markets such as Mexico, Australia and Russia.

1996 saw outstanding performances by our core confectionery companies with product innovation the key to growth in most of our major markets.

At this early stage in the year we are confident of further growth and success in 1997 despite the impact of the stronger pound."

Dominic Cadbury

Dominic Cadbury, Chairman

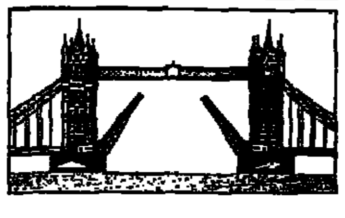
Cadbury Schweppes

MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKETPLACE

☐ Good job prospects in computer software ☐ The drawbacks of money-purchase plans ☐ BAT must eventually make its move

Countdown to the millennium

PENNINGTON



☐ NEVER mind pensions — there is only one question worrying the truly long-sighted. Which arrives first, the simultaneous crash of every computer system on the planet come the year 2000, or that huge, final asteroid?

Pessimists say there is no longer enough time to defuse the Millennium Bomb, which will throw the world back to the age of barter at the end of the century. Computer experts, however, are confident they can cope — it will just have to wait until they have sorted out the euro. Literally true; there is more money being spent in continental Europe on preparing computers for the common currency than for the millennium.

Because of the inability of old computers to cope with the change to a year with a 2 in front of it, software houses are having to go through all programs that could present a problem and edit out and correct every reference to the date. This is the equivalent of reading through a book for every mention of the word "horse"; miss one, and the book is unreadable.

Some estimates say banks alone could lose a tenth of their annual profits to the cost of the millennium overhaul. Last week NatWest said that information technology budgets were running £100 million a year ahead; a big organisation could have as many as 10,000 programs within its IT to be checked.

The situation is made worse because many of the old programs are written in an outdated language, Cobol. This has thrown up some quirks: suddenly enhanced job prospects for retired computer programmers, while the problem in Germany is less acute because the language had been in use east of the Berlin Wall.

Job prospects for all computer programmers, and software firms such as CMG and Logica are pretty good too, because of this, the euro and the explosion in telecoms, a fact reflected in share prices. The problem for the industry, because no one knows what is needed, will be pricing — fixed-cost contracts could prove expensive mistakes, but those keen for the work may opt for them anyway.

Another difficulty is assigning the blame, if the system is tested and not all those horses have been edited out. It crashes and they have to start again. Who pays extra, the original computer maker, the owner or the software house doing the work? This has required indemnity clauses limiting liability in contracts. Where there is insurance, there are lawyers. If a career in software does not appeal to an ambitious graduate, one as a lawyer specialising in IT work could be even better.

Typical that lawyers would find some way of profiting from the Millennium Bomb. They'll probably be the only ones to survive the asteroid impact too.

The pensions timebomb

☐ TALKING of pensions and grim warnings, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has chosen a good day to point to what could be the next mis-selling scandal, the growing switch to money-purchase plans or defined contribution pensions. The shift from traditional final-salary schemes, whereby employers promise to pay an eventual fixed proportion of employees' salaries, to such plans has been accelerating over the past five years, and it is making many observers uneasy.

In a traditional pension, any shortfall in the sum promised must be made up by employers, which leaves their risk uncapped. By contrast, money-purchase plans throw the responsibility firmly on the employee. If the investment performance of his or her pension fails to keep pace, then hard luck.

All very well in these times of self-reliance, but large numbers of people may not be competent to look after their own pensions, patronising though it may seem to suggest it. This is why final-salary schemes have always put the onus on their employers.

Three facts. Firms running traditional schemes have enjoyed pensions holidays in recent years, but these are coming to an end and contributions are starting to climb again. Secondly, a pensions industry survey shows the average employer chipping in 5.6 per cent of pensionable earnings to money-purchase schemes and 13.3 per cent to the traditional kind. Clearly, the new schemes are the cheaper option. Finally, the Association of Consulting Actuaries says that after 25 years, members of money-purchase schemes can expect only half the benefits of a final-salary pensioner.

And one possible future: a third of pensioners with no private means, relying on negligible state benefits or begging to get along. Another third with less than they had expected, and the final third with enough — before taxes. Makes you glad to be alive, doesn't it?

Interpreting the smoke signals

☐ THERE were some confusing smoke signals rising from BAT Industries yesterday. Was the group about to split in two, or settle with the health authorities in the US? Either would be good for a couple of quid on the share price, but BAT's shares ended the day lower.

BAT has made it clear for a while that a once-and-for-all settlement with the various US state litigants, and one requiring legislation, would be welcomed at the right price. But it is not for the tobacco industry to take the initiative on such a deal. Martin Broughton, the chief executive, was prepared to countenance a deal in 12 to 18 months, though, which shows some optimism.

As to demerger, Hanson and Thorn EMI have shown that this is not enough on its own. Farmers, the US insurer, may be within a whisker of outstripping US tobacco as the main profit earner, but prospects for financial services in the UK are mixed. Any split is likely to be linked with a joint venture or other deal with one of the big composite insurers, say. For now, BAT shares still sell on ten times' this year's earnings. Some sort of move on either front will come eventually, and when it does, look for an immediate rerating.

Dropping the pilot

☐ TAKEOVER battles between investment trusts, although horribly technical for most mortals, throw up the odd bit of fun. The independent directors of Pilot, under £47 million assault from Colin McLean's Undervalued Assets Trust, are furious that the Bank of England Pension Fund has rushed to accept the offer. Mr McLean is widely expected to break up the underperforming fund if he succeeds, which will put a few strategic stakes in small companies on the market and a few heads on the block. So much for the Bank's views on long-term investment. Remember: don't do as I do, do as I say.

Cadbury Schweppes ready to spend £2bn

By Fraser Nelson

CADBURY SCHWEPPES, the confectionery and soft drinks group, yesterday delivered the strongest signs yet that it is looking to make a substantial acquisition, saying it could afford to spend £2 billion if an opportunity arose.

The company, which last month received £623 million after selling its stake in its joint distribution venture to Coca-Cola, said it was more likely to bolster its confectionery arm with the new money.

It returned a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £592 million for 1996, with cashflow rising 10 per cent to £869 million. It said it had a strong balance sheet and was prepared to divest other businesses if it considered any to have reached the height of earnings potential.

Cadbury shares rose 19p to 529p yesterday. John Sunderland, chief executive, said the company was committed to enhancing shareholder value. He said the company was aligning management's interests more closely with shareholders by switching to an incentive plan based on total shareholder return.

While he refused to say that its past share issues had detracted from shareholder value, he agreed that the company now "acknowledged the cost of equity capital". If it did agree a big acquisition, it would only issue more shares as a last resort.

Dominic Cadbury, chairman, said: "We have for quite a long time now focused on earnings per share as our criterion by which we judge ourselves. We're saying there is a more appropriate measure." Earnings rose 14 per cent on an underlying basis, to 34.1p. The total dividend is increased 6 per cent to 17p a share. A final 11.8p is due on May 23.

Cadbury attributed the results to strong performances from both confectionery and soft drinks, after a full year's results from Dr Pepper and 7-Up against a ten-month contribution last time. It played down fears that its soft drinks in the US was suffering from renewed attacks from Coke and Pepsi. Dr Pepper achieved volume growth of 4 per cent, in spite of the launch of Mr Pibb, Coke's equivalent to Dr Pepper.

7-Up, which has been in decline, saw its market share slip fall to 1.9 per cent last year, and the company said that it had returned to growth in the past two months. The company also said that it was planning a relaunch of Dr Pepper, but ruled out any change of colour in the cans.

Tempus, page 28

Biotech seeks EU approval for Zacutex

BRITISH Biotech, the biotechnology company that hopes to evolve into a commercial pharmaceuticals group, has applied for regulatory approval of Zacutex, its acute pancreatitis medicine (Eric Reguly writes).

If it is approved by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency, which covers member states of the European Union, Zacutex will become British Biotech's first product on the market. The company expects to launch the drug next year; it is still undergoing trials in the United States.

British Biotech reported a pre-tax loss of £1.5 million in the three months to January 31, raising the nine-month loss to £17.6 million, against a £15 million loss previously.

Airtime sales fall hits HTV shares

By Eric Reguly

SHARES of HTV, the ITV company serving Wales and the West of England, fell 10p to 350½p yesterday after reporting disappointing airtime sales. HTV blamed the downturn on advertisers, notably phone companies, targeting their marketing in London, at the expense of the regions. In an effort to reverse the trend, it has entered into a new contract with TSMS, the advertising sales house owned by United News & Media. United owns 29.9 per cent of HTV.

Chris Rowlands, chief executive, said the new contract, unlike the previous one, sets performance targets for TSMS and penalties if it does not meet them. The goal is to raise HTV's share of the ITV companies' advertising revenue to more than 6 per cent, compared with 1996's level of 5.84 per cent.

The company reported pre-tax profits of £9.9 million in the year to the end of December, against £12.1 million in 1995, on turnover of £139.3 million, up 3.2 per cent. The latest figures include exceptional charges of £2.1 million, largely from the introduction of digital technology in HTV's studios. Operating profit before exceptional charges was £12.6 million (£12.5 million).

The biggest improvements came from Harvest Entertainment, its production and rights division, whose profits rose 24 per cent to £5.6 million. A 2.75p final, due May 30, lifts the total payout 11 per cent to 4.15p.

Salvesen's chairman attacks rebels

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN criticised rebel shareholders led by Sir Gerald Elliot, its former chairman, who hope to thwart the company's plan to sell Aggreko, the power supply subsidiary, and return £150 million to shareholders (Ashley Potter writes).

Sir Alick Rankin, chairman, accused the rebels of attempting to hijack next week's vote on the payback and turn it into a vote of no confidence in the board.

He said: "If Sir Gerald wishes to replace all or part of the current board, he should use his stated support to do so by convening an EGM." Rebels claims to speak for shareholders who control 14 per cent of the company.

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Speculators switch on to Southern Electric shares

THE speculators are keeping close tabs on **Southern Electric** in the belief that a bid for the last of the independent regional electricity companies will not be too far off.

The shares closed yesterday 13p dearer at 449½p, just a shade below their highest level of the past year, as a further 1.55 million shares changed hands — significant turnover in a market normally dealing in 10,000 shares at a time.

The speculators are reluctant to put a name to any of the potential suitors, although it is known there is no shortage among the numerous American power companies. At these levels, Southern carries a price tag of £2.2 billion. Speculation has intensified following last month's agreed bid for Yorkshire Electricity by two US power companies.

The rest of the equity market closed at another new high after a near 30-point turnaround with the help of another positive start to trading on Wall Street. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Fed, was yesterday busily reassuring investors. He said that the equity market looked fairly valued if present forecasts of corporate earnings became reality. The FT-SE 100 index closed 2.4 higher at a record 4,360.1 as 809 million shares changed hands.

Compass Group, the contract caterer, fell 27½p to 715p after learning that its biggest shareholder was reducing its holding. Accor, the French hotels group, is cutting its 21.5 per cent stake to 10 per cent.

Brokers were keeping their ears to the ground last night, hoping for some positive news for **Cable and Wireless** out of Hong Kong. Word is something may be afoot at its 56 per cent-owned Hongkong Telecom subsidiary. The price closed 7½p dearer at 501½p.

A downgrading by Goldman Sachs, just a day before it publishes full-year results, left **Glaxo Wellcome** 21p down at £10.35.

Reuters fell 15½p to 644p on vague talk of a rights issue to help to finance a major acquisition. The group is already sitting on almost £1 billion in cash. Earlier in the day a line of 462,385 shares went through the market at 641p.

Full-year figures from **Cadbury Schweppes** came in towards the top end of expectations and the shares responded with a rise of 19p at 529p. The group was confident about current trading prospects and hinted that it could afford to finance a major acquisition up to the tune of £2 billion. But Dominic Cadbury, chairman, warned that the strong pound could put a £21 million dent in profits.

John Sunderland, chief executive, and Dominic Cadbury of Cadbury Schweppes, saw shares make a 19p advance

Speculative buying continued to edge **Pilkington** higher. The price firmed 1p to 145p on turnover of 2.31 million shares. It now stands 15p above its low. Brokers say it is vulnerable to a bid.

Sunderland Football Club is learning fast about the ways of the City. The price tumbled 32½p to 675p after Tuesday's home thrashing by Tottenham Hotspur, unchanged at 112½p. The 400,000 shares of Peter Reid, the manager, were worth £130,000 less. The shares have traded as high as 760p.

T&N touched 151p before ending the day 3p cheaper at 156½p after announcing plans to shed 2,500 jobs as part of a restructuring programme. At the same time, shares of Kolbenschmidt, the German pistons group, were suspended on the Frankfurt bourse pending the announcement of a change of shareholders. T&N has an option to acquire a 49.9 per cent stake.

BAT Industries' full-year figures came in bang in line with City expectations. The group was in upbeat mood with tobacco-related illness claims unlikely to affect performance. It refused to comment on reports it had talked with **Commercial Union**, up 10p at 731p, about a possible merger last year. BAT finished 18½p lower at 531p.

Shield Diagnostics put in a late spurt to finish 44½p higher on the day at 605p in heavy turnover of 777,751 shares in what is normally a 2,000-share market. City speculators are hoping for rich rewards from the group's diagnostic treatment for the early detection of heart disease.

HTV Group fell 10p to 350½p after reporting a drop in profits. A return to the black was good for **Trace Computers**, up 8p at 59½p, while further losses failed to rattle **British Biotech**, steady at 251½p.

Micro Focus soared 87½p to £11.½ on the back of reduced losses.

Mackie International rallied 17½p to 148½p. The shares fell sharply on Tuesday after the breakdown of talks that could have led to a bid.

Pace Micro Technology edged 4½p higher at 118p still hoping to be awarded the contract to supply BSkyB with television decoder boxes. The share price has tumbled from 235p this month after two profit warnings.

A bid approach was good news for **Colleagues Group**, 12p dearer at 82½p. It looks as if the executive directors are putting together an offer for the media company.

Metal Bulletin is becoming something of a cash cow these days with £12.5 million in the bank. Yesterday the price of the metals information publisher slipped 5p to £12.25 after announcing its tenth year of record profits. Rival publisher **Emap**, up 8p at 747p, holds 20 per cent of the shares.

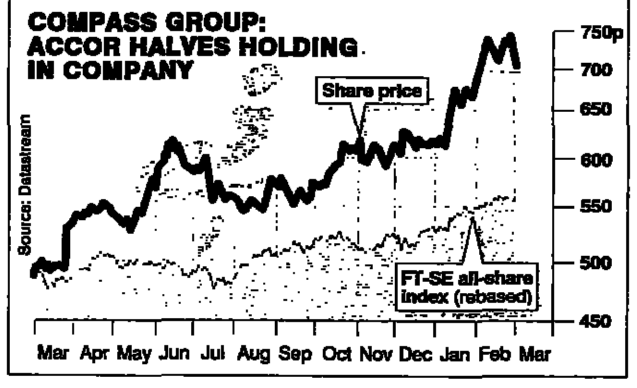
A profits warning and the decision to suspend paying a dividend left **Eadie Holdings** 4½p lower at 10p. Michael Green, chairman, and Peter Bromwich, a director, have resigned.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** There was a further steepening of the yield curve as longer-dated issues suffered falls stretching to £1. This followed claims from the futures pit that the launch of economic and monetary union had been delayed.

The June series of the long gilt fell £¾ to £111 11/32 as the number of contracts completed reached 91,000. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 shed £29/32 at £104 31/32, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was three ticks off at £103 11/16.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street put a positive spin on Alan Greenspan's remarks ahead of his congressional testimony, while the February employment report, out tomorrow, loomed large. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 38.10 points lower at 6,890.82.

COMPASS GROUP: ACCOR HALVES HOLDING IN COMPANY



Source: Datastream

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6890.82 (+38.10)
S&P Composite	795.76 (+4.81)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18273.51 (-291.27)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	13410.76 (-39.32)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	755.23 (+1.83)
Sydney:	
AO	2433.0 (+0.9)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	3364.99 (+44.33)
Singapore:	
Straits	2192.53 (+3.09)
Brussels:	
General	12089.34 (+75.98)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2666.19 (+14.50)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	950.80 (+8.10)
London:	
FT 30	2892.5 (+7.9)
FT 100	4360.1 (+2.4)
FTSE Mid 250	4678.6 (+12.0)
FTSE 350	2156.5 (+2.1)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2166.43 (+12.17)
FT All-Share	2128.32 (+1.94)
FT Non Financials	2174.25 (+0.31)
FT Fixed Interest	119.77 (Same)
FT Govt Secs	95.67 (-0.34)
Bargains	54087
SEAQ Volume	809.3m
US$	1.6100 (-0.0070)
German Mark	2.7557 (-0.0086)
Exchange Index	98.1 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4112
£:SDR	1.1739
RPI	154.4 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.9 Jan (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Anglo-Welsh	106½	- 5
Aortech	136½	...
C&B Publishing	175	...
Calldore Warrants	1	...
Centrica (75½)	64¼	+ ¼
Core Group	325	+ 11½
Energy Group (525)	524	- 8½
Howle	30½	- ½
Infobank Intl	149	...
Nord Anglo Eductn	165½	- 2
Psd Group	286½	...
Screen	5¾	+ ½
TR Euro Gwth Wrts	57½	...
Tea Plantations Inv	102	...
Technoplast	106	+ 10½
VFG	41½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Proteus Intl	73½p (+8½p)
Shield Diag	605p (+44½p)
DCS Group	288½p (+18½p)
Wistnhime R	642½p (+32½p)
Danka Bs Sys	660p (+25p)
Hanson	287p (+10½p)
Cadbury-Schw	529p (+19p)
Electrocompts	423p (+13p)
Close Bros	409½p (+12p)
Arney	486½p (+14p)
Capita Group	677½p (+17½p)
Enterprise	625p (+14p)
Premier Farnell	493½p (+11p)
Laporte	669p (+14½p)
Charter	763p (+15p)
FALLS:	
Stat-Plus	215½p (-12p)
Impala Plant	803½p (-37½p)
Assoc Br Ports	306p (-12½p)
Compass Gp	715p (-27½p)
Hozelock	442½p (-16½p)
BAT	531p (-18½p)
Air London	225p (-7½p)
Chiroscience	381½p (-12p)
HTV Group	350½p (-10p)
Cantab Pharms	885p (-22½p)
Reuters	644p (-15½p)
Hutch Whamp	470½p (-10½p)
Stand Chart	873p (-14½p)
Powerscreen	606½p (-9p)
Argos	677½p (-9½p)
Boots	668½p (-9p)
BICC	271½p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Hope in German option

T&N is not an obvious candidate for a leading role in restructuring the automotive components industry. Its balance sheet is shot to ribbons — largely because of a massive provision for future asbestosis injury claims. Its margins have weakened because difficult markets and another round of redundancies will cost the company some £25 million.

But Sir Colin Hope and his T&N board refuse to lie down and, despite yesterday's glum results, they had something to smile about. Its game of "softly, softly, catchee monkey" with the German piston maker, Kolbenschmidt, could be about to pay off. The company's appeal against the German Cartel Office seems to have gone in its favour. Meanwhile, Rheinmetall, a German engineer with no piston interests, has acquired 25 per cent of Kolbenschmidt, a move that T&N appears to regard as friendly, notwithstanding the aggressive stance yesterday adopted by Rheinmetall, which said it was seeking majority control of Kolbenschmidt.

A full takeover of Kolbenschmidt by Rheinmetall should pose no problems for German competition authorities but also makes little sense for the German buyer, whose business brings little synergy to the pistons company. A joint venture with T&N, however, would bring greater benefits.

T&N is not looking cheap; the market worth of the company plus the net present value of the asbestos liabilities is 14 times estimates of this year's earnings. Clearly, there is hope value in these shares; T&N has climbed more than a few mountains. No one should be surprised if a rights issue accompanies exercise of the Kolbenschmidt option.

Cadbury

JOHN SUNDERLAND, chief executive of Cadbury Schweppes, is at least making the right noises about shareholder value.

By singing from a politically correct hymnbook, he may have eliminated a few nagging doubts. Concerns about dilution have been calmed by a promise not to issue more shares except as a last resort.

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value criteria — whatever that may be — sounds brave.

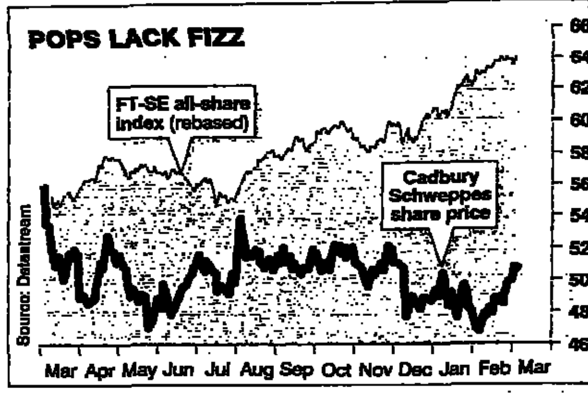
It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form: its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the company's main headaches. Coke and Pepsi are still making bellicose noises in the US, and Cadbury is standing in a free-fire zone. Mr Pibb, the Coke missile designed to take Dr Pepper out of the market, has not yet reached its target — but the night is still young and Coke's advertising budget will go a long way.

The virgin territories of Poland, China and Russia are also slow to bear fruit. Millions are being lost, and Cadbury does not expect profits until 2000.

The rise in the shares puts Cadbury on an average rating. Until there is more news, this looks generous for a company in such an unenviable position.

POPS LACK FIZZ



Source: Datastream

BICC

BICC has profited more than most from the Government's privatisation programme. Successive waves of deregulation and sell-offs have created a demand for BICC's capabilities in construction and cables.

The latest example is rail privatisation. BICC is now the biggest rail infrastructure maintenance contractor after acquiring three former British Rail units. Business from Railtrack and franchise operators has created a BICC division with annual revenue of £250 million and profits of £24 million.

BICC is not on a one-way bet. Costs need to be brought down; Railtrack, the main customer, will demand price reductions when long-term maintenance contracts come up for renewal over the next few years. The rail network operator has every incentive to squeeze its contractors hard and BICC will be competing with other track maintenance companies. But the UK business fits in with BICC's other rail work around the globe. In the US, the group has won a maintenance contract for Amtrak.

Elsewhere privatisation has brought business in telecoms and utilities, with BICC's cable arm the main beneficiary. New entertainment opportunities and the Internet are the main drivers. Given Labour's interest in new technology, a government less keen on asset sales should not damage BICC's prospects.

TrizecHahn

THE mercurial Dieter Bock always surprises. Out of a messy situation in Africa, he has pitched his tent amid the sheltering steel and glass towers of TrizecHahn, a large North American property development company. Mr Bock is selling some of his own property developments — including the former Mappin & Webb site in the City of London — to acquire a modest stake in TrizecHahn.

Mr Bock's pedigree suggests he will not be content with 4 per cent of anything. However, the tiller at TrizecHahn is firmly in the hands of Peter Munk. The man who turned Barrick into the world's most successful gold producer is no pushover.

This begs the question as to why TrizecHahn wants Mr Bock. The American developer has been desperate to extend its reach beyond North American shores and, to date, has little to show besides a business park near Berlin and some joint ventures in Eastern Europe. Real estate is an insider's game: Mr Bock could provide the German connections that kickstart TrizecHahn's stalled Euro-ambitions.

Even if it does not pay off, Mr Bock's 4 per cent in TrizecHahn is not as sensitive as his 18 per cent stake was in Lonrho.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	918 SLR	May	999 SLR
May	933 SLR	Jul	1017 SLR
Jul	947 SLR	Sep	1034-1027
Sep	957-956	Dec	1050-1040
Dec	966 SLR		
Mar	986 SLR		Volume: 10401

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1785 BID	Nov	unq
May	unq	Jan	
Jul		Mar	1735-1725
Sep	1780 SLR		Volume: 9969

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	301.8-01.0
Spot: 310.5		Mar	303.0-01.0
May	307.4-06.8	May	305.0-00.0
Aug	306.0-05.3	Jul	unq
Oct	302.0-01.3		Volume: 9487

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 4

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	83.39	145.08	98.18
(+/-)	+0.37	+0.93	-3.06
Eng/Wales:	84.28	145.89	97.00
(+/-)	+0.52	+1.08	-3.08
(%)	+25.0	+5.0	+5.0
Scotland:	75.93	142.66	102.11
(+/-)	-1.45	+0.61	-3.38
(%)	+13.0	+13.0	+15.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.20	n/c
Brent 15 day (Apr)	19.30	+0.10
Brent 15 day (May)	19.00	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	20.45	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (May)	20.30	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	204 (+1)	207 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	163 (n/c)	164 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	84 (n/c)	86 (n/c)
Naphtha	186 (-1)	189 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	162.00-62.25	Jun	166.50-67.00
Apr	163.75-64.00	Jul	169.00 SLR
May	165.25-65.50		Vol: 20651

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	19.23-19.24	Jul	18.64-18.70
May	18.95 SLR	Aug	18.59-18.62
Jun	18.81 SLR		Vol: 29086

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	97.65	Mar	91.00
May	100.35	May	92.00
Jul	102.75	Sep	91.50
Sep	93.40	Nov	93.50
Nov	95.40	Jan	95.50
	Volume: 626		Volume: 18

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	65.5	65.5
May	70.7	70.7
Jun	unq	77.0
		Volume: 31

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Apr 80.25-80.75

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 97	1460	1415	1460
Apr 97	1540	1490	1530
May 97	1515	1500	1515
Jul 97	1295	1295	1295

Vol: 156 lots Open interest: 2872

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LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2445.0-2446.0	2385.0-2385.5	1352350
Lead ($/tonne)	694.00-695.00	687.00-687.50	354125
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1237.0-1238.0	1247.0-1248.0	860300
Tin ($/tonne)	5785.0-5795.0	5845.0-5850.0	24815
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1653.5-1654.0	1681.0-1681.5	1823400
Nickel ($/tonne)	8015.0-8020.0	8110.0-8115.0	92046

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	420	31	38½	45½	4½	14	18½
(*444)	460	8½	17½	26	22½	35	39½
ASDA	110	5½	8½	9½	3	6	8½
(*110½)	120	2	4	5½	10	12	13½
Boots	650	30½	44	50½	9½	22	27½
(*668½)	700	6½	19	26½	35½	49	55
Br Airways	650	26½	41	51	15	28	35½
(*657½)	700	7½	20	29½	46	58½	64½
BP	650	51½	65½	74½	4½	15	21½
(*694½)	700	20	36	46½	22	35	43
Br Steel	140	16½	19½	21	1	5	6½
(*155)	160	4	8½	10½	8½	15	17
C & W	500	20½	34½	45½	15½	28½	35½
(*502½)	550	4	15	25	48½	59½	65½
CU	700	39	63	78	27½	49	68½
(*725½)	750	19	45	56½	58½	77½	97½
ICI	750	22½	44½	55	15½	28	37
(*751½)	800	8	22½	32½	49½	57½	65½
Land Sec	750	52	62	67½	2½	14	19
(*794½)	800	17	29	38½	17½	37½	42½
M & S	460	34	42	48½	4	12	13½
(*488)	500	9½	19½	27½	19	30	33
Nat West	700	51	75	82½	6½	18	29
(*742)	750	22	45½	55	24	38½	52
Safeway plc	360	18	26½	32½	8	18	22½
(*367½)	390	6	12½	19½	25	35½	40½
Sainsbury	300	25	30½	34	3	10	12
(*320)	330	7½	14	19	15	25	27½
Shell	1050	37	49½	63½	28	42½	51½
(*1065½)	1100	14	27	41½	62	72½	80½
Smkl Bch	900	44½	69½	86	19	37½	48
(*919½)	950	21	46	60½	45	63	73
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1800	91½	146	180½	41	68	86
(*1864)	1900	43½	97	128½	91	118	134½
	Series	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
BAT Ind	500	34	43½	55	14½	26½	36
(*530½)	550	9	26½	30	44½	54	64½
Vodafone	280	23	32½	38½	5½	12½	16½
(*295½)	300	11½	22	28½	13½	21½	26½
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Grnd Met	460	22½	33	40	14	21½	26
(*463)	500	7½	16	23	39½	47½	49
Ladbroke	220	12	17½	21½	9	11½	14½
(*225)	240	5	9	13	21	23	26
Utd Bisc	240	10½	17½	22	13½	16½	21½
(*241½)	260	4	10	15	27½	29½	34

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	500	45½	55	60	1½	9½	13
(*539½)	550	12½	24	31	19½	30	34
Thames W	650	48½	69½	71	9½	30½	32½
(*698½)	700	19½	42	44½	28	56	58
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
BTR	240	18½	24½	28½	9	12	15½
(*252½)	260	9	15½	19½	19½	22½	26½
Br Aero	1300	74	107½	128½	32½	47½	60
(*1336½)	1390	48½	81	102	57	71½	82½
Br Telcm	420	25½	34	38	9	21	25
(*431½)	460	7½	16½	19½	31½	47	49½
Cadbury	500	34	44½	51½	12	18	21½
(*528)	550	9	21½	29½	39½	45½	48
Guinness	460	19	29	34	17½	24	26
(*467½)	500	7	13½	18	47	50	51
GEC	360	33½	41	44½	4½	11	14½
(*385)	390	15½	23½	28	16	25½	29
Hanson	280	19	25	29	10	11½	15
(*287)	300	10	15½	19	21	22	25½
LASMO	240	17½	25½	29	9	12	14½
(*245)	260	9	16½	20½	20	23	25½
LucasVarity	200	17	23	26	6½	8½	13
(*209½)	220	7½	13½	17	16½	19	23½
Pilkingtn	140	10½	14½	—	3½	8½	—
(*145)	160	4	6	—	15½	20½	—
Prudential	550	35	48½	57½	16½	25	32½
(*575)	600	12½	26	34½	45	52½	59
Redland	330	37	40½	47	8	12½	18½
(*358½)	360	18	23½	32	22½	27½	33
R-Royce	220	26	31½	35½	7	10	12
(*239)	240	14	21	25	15½	19	21½
Tesco	330	19½	26	31½	12	16½	20
(*339½)	360	6	13	18½	30½	34	37½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4359½)

	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450	4500
Calls						
Mar	116½	75½	42	18	6	1
Apr	145½	109	77½	51½	32	17½
May	166	134½	103	79½	57	41
Jun	190	168	134	107	82½	62½
Dec	—	279	—	223	—	173½
Puts						
Mar	13½	24½	44	70½	109½	157
Apr	42½	57½	76½	102½	132½	168½
May	61	78½	98	124½	151	186
Jun	82½	101	117½	142½	168½	199½
Dec	—	[illegible]	—	206	—	255

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Abby Nat	750	23	47½	60	23	40	49
(*765)	800	5	27	39	59½	70½	78
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1100	37½	73	89½	23½	40½	58
(*1108½)	1150	16	48½	65	52	67	84
Natl Pwr	500	20	39½	38	14	32	36
(*504)	550	4½	20	18½	47½	65	69
	Series	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Glaxo W	1000	43½	67	85	26	41	52½
(*1034)	1050	19	42½	61	53	67½	78½
HSBC	1500	81	127½	155½	29	61½	85½
(*1568½)	1600	28	79	106½	82½	113½	136½
Reuter	600	47½	65½	74	9	18	23½
(*643½)	650	18	38	47½	27	40	46
Royal & Sun	500	14½	29	37½	21	30½	36
(*503½)	550	3	12½	19½	61½	65½	69
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Blue Circ	390	29	36½	42½	11½	16	21½
(*411½)	420	12	21½	28	27	31½	36½
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Kingfishr	650	43	55½	65½	15½	25	30½
(*681½)	700	16½	31	40½	42½	49½	56
	Series	**Mar**	**Jun**		**Mar**	**Jun**	
Br Gas	220	19	24	—	0½	9½	—
(*239)	240	5	13	—	6½	19	—
	Series	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**
Dixons	500	36	53½	61½	1½	12	21
(*533½)	550	5	25	34½	20	33½	44
EMI Group	1150	51	92	115	6½	33½	52½
(*1191)	1200	20½	65½	88	24½	54½	74½
Tarmac	100	5½	9½	11½	1	5½	6
(*103½)	110	1	4	7	7	11½	11½
Hillsdwn	180	12	16	16½	0½	6	7
(*191)	200	1	5½	7	9½	18½	19
Lonrho	140	8½	14	17½	1½	5½	7½
(*147)	160	0½	5	8½	13½	16½	18½
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	280	7½	19	23½	3½	11	17½
(*281½)	300	1	10	14	17	22½	28½
Lloyds TSB	500	28½	48½	58½	2	14	21
(*526)	550	2½	22½	33	25	38	45½
Scot Pwr	360	7½	22	27½	4½	14	21
(*362½)	390	0	9½	14½	27½	31½	40
Unilever	1500	53½	79½	105	7	38	51½
(*154.0)	1600	6½	33	60½	59½	92½	106

March 5, 1997 Tot: 25919 Call: 12014 Put: 13905 FTSE Call: 1588 Put: 1625

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 259062	Mar 97	112-16	112-17	111-24	111-27	36131
	Jun 97	112-01	112-01	111-07	111-11	90590
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest: 333570	Mar 97	103.26	103.30	103.02	103.06	42400
	Jun 97	102.43	102.46	101.67	101.80	283729
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest: 84190	Jun 97	127.55	127.58	126.25	126.49	88764
	Sep 97	126.55	126.80	126.30	126.40	238
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 97	126.36	126.40	126.35	126.39	1500
	Jun 97	124.90	124.95	124.87	124.88	2336
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 97	93.73	93.74	93.71	93.73	10138
	Jun 97	93.52	93.56	93.52	93.53	18476
Previous open interest: 514514	Sep 97	93.29	93.35	93.29	93.30	11022
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest: 1257364	Mar 97	96.77	96.78	96.74	96.75	18329
	Apr 97	96.78	96.78	96.77	96.77	250
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest: 292436	Mar 97	92.68	92.69	92.62	92.65	11922
	Jun 97	93.12	93.15	93.00	93.07	34589
Three Mth Euroyen	Jun 97	99.40	99.40	99.40	99.40	40
	Sep 97	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	540
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest: 108360	Mar 97	98.25	98.26	98.15	98.16	6526
	Jun 97	98.31	98.31	98.17	98.17	29593
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest: 35081	Mar 97	95.80	95.80	95.77	95.76	366
	Jun 97	95.81	95.82	95.78	95.78	353
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 68758	Mar 97	4333.0	4367.0	4326.0	4348.0	15111
	Jun 97	4355.0	4383.5	4347.5	4367.5	3493

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7½ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5⅞

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5 13/16; 3 mth 5 13/16. Sell: 2 mth 5 25/32; 3 mth: 5 25/32.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5 13/16-5¾	5 13/16-5 25/32	6 1/32-5 31/32	6⅛-6 1/16	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6 1/16	6¼-6⅛	6½-6⅜	6 13/16-6¾
Interbank:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6 1/16	6¼-6⅛	6½-6⅜	6 13/16-6¾
Overnight: open 5½, close 7½.					
Local Authority Deps:	5 15/16	n/a	6⅛	6½	6¾
Sterling CDs:	6 1/16-6	6⅛-6 1/16	6¼-6⅛	6½-6⅜	6⅞-6¾
Dollar CDs:	5.35	n/a	5.45	5.62	5.87
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6 1/16	6¼-6⅛	6½-6⅜	6⅞-6¾

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4 15/16	5¼-5⅛	5⅜-5¼	5 9/16-5 7/16	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3 1/16	3⅛-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3⅛-2⅞
French Franc:	3⅛-3	3 3/16-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	1 13/16-1 11/16	1⅞-1¾	1 15/16-1 13/16	1 15/16-1 13/16	2¼-1¾
Yen:	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	¾-⅝	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $358.00-358.40 Close: $351.75-352.25 High: $358.00-358.40

Low: $350.05-350.55 AM: $355.75 PM: $354.50

Krugerrand: $351.00-354.00 (£218.00-220.00)

Platinum: $382.00 (£237.50) Silver: $5.19 (£3.225) Palladium: $143.75 (£89.35)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for March 5	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0976-3.1097	3.0976-3.1000	¾-⅝pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Brussels	56.770-57.050	56.770-56.867	15-10pr	44-37pr
Copenhagen	10.499-10.540	10.499-10.508	¼-⅛pr	¼-½pr
Dublin	1.0307-1.0339	1.0316-1.0330	5-1pr	15-9pr
Frankfurt	2.7537-2.7643	2.7537-2.7559	¾-⅝pr	2⅛-2pr
Lisbon	276.28-277.27	276.28-276.58	⅛-¼ds	⅛-¼ds
Madrid	233.08-234.01	233.08-233.28	6-4pr	22-4pr
Milan	2739.8-2755.5	2741.5-2744.1	25-41ds	73-95ds
Montreal	2.1996-2.2090	2.2013-2.2032	0.60-0.55pr	1.15-1.06pr
New York	1.6092-1.6136	1.6094-1.6102	0.95-0.75pr	0.278-0.247pr
Oslo	11.171-11.257	11.171-11.180	¼-⅛pr	⅛-½pr
Paris	9.2890-9.3220	9.2890-9.2981	2⅛-2⅛pr	6⅞-6⅜pr
Stockholm	12.287-12.381	12.287-12.306	⅛-¼pr	⅛-½pr
Tokyo	195.28-195.99	195.28-195.51	⅞-¾pr	2⅜-2⅛pr
Vienna	19.379-19.452	19.379-19.396	⅞-⅝pr	1⅝-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.3822-2.3958	2.3822-2.3847	⅞-¾pr	2⅞-2⅝pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2745-1.2753
Austria	12.05-12.06
Belgium (Com)	35.30-35.34
Canada	1.3670-1.3680
Denmark	6.5279-6.5299
France	5.7763-5.7773
Germany	1.7137-1.7137
Hong Kong	7.7410-7.7420
Ireland	1.5587-1.5597
Italy	1703.30-1704.80
Japan	121.59-121.64
Malaysia	2.4722-2.4732
Netherlands	1.9267-1.9272
Norway	6.9500-6.9550
Portugal	171.86-171.96
Singapore	1.4268-1.4278
Spain	144.95-145.00
Sweden	7.6458-7.6533
Switzerland	1.4820-1.4830

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6083-1.6110
Australia dollar	2.0492-2.0518
Bahrain dinar	0.6020-0.6140
Brazil real*	1.6866-1.6909
China yuan	13.219-13.519
Cyprus pound	0.8180-0.8280
Finland markka	8.1925-8.3085
Greece drachma	428.74-435.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.4475-12.4569
India rupee	57.45-58.41
Indonesia rupiah	3825.0-3893.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4845-0.4845
Malaysia ringgit	3.9758-3.9799
New Zealand dollar	2.2886-2.2917
Pakistan rupee	64.20 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8125-5.9365
Singapore dollar	2.2965-2.2988
S Africa rand (com)	7.1390-7.2410
U A E dirham	5.8625-5.9865

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	618	Land Secs	392
ASDA Gp	11,800	Legal & Gn	1,700
Abbey Ntl	1,400	Lloyds TSB	5,500
Allied Dom	3,400	LucasVarity	4,600
Argos	1,000	Marks Spr	4,100
AB Foods	538	Mercury Asset	778
BAA	1,950	NatWst Bk	4,800
BAT Inds	17,800	Nat Grid	3,500
BG	14,000	Nat Power	1,500
BOC	1,700	Next	1,700
BP	5,600	Orange	2,900
BSkyB	13,900	P & O	1,200
BTR	7,800	Pearson	1,400
BT	12,800	PowerGen	1,600
Bk of Scot	2,700	Prudential	1,500
Barclays	2,300	RMC	725
Bass	3,000	RTZ	2,400
Blue Circle	3,900	Railtrack	3,000
Boots	968	Rank Group	8,100
BAe	2,200	Reckitt Col	1,200
BA	1,500	Reed Intl	1,400
Brit Steel	11,800	Rentokil Inl	3,800
Burmah Cstl	931	Reuters	7,400
Burton	2,200	Rolls Royce	7,100
Cable Wire	4,000	Royal & Sun	1,700
Cadbury	13,800	Royal Bk Sct	2,200
Carlton Cms	1,900	Safeway	3,200
Centrica	25,300	Sainsbury	5,100
Cm Union	1,700	Schroders	24
Dixons	1,600	Scot & New	2,100
EMI	873	Scot Power	1,400
Energy Gp	3,800	Svrn Trent	2,300
Enterpr Oil	3,500	Shell Trans	4,000
GKN	661	Slebe	1,200
GRE	1,600	SmKl Bch	2,000
GUS	838	Smith Nph	4,000
Gen Acc	1,200	Smiths Inds	706
Gen Elec	7,000	Std Chartd	1,800
Glaxo Well	8,900	TI Gp	1,100
Granada	5,200	Tate & Lyle	1,300
Grand Met	3,500	Tesco	3,600
Guinness	5,100	Thames W	1,100
HSBC	1,800	Tomkins	4,100
Hanson	13,000	Unilever	2,100
Hays	1,600	Utd Utilities	915
ICI	2,632	Utd News	2,000
Imp Tob	1,500	Vodafone	5,600
Kingfisher	2,900	Whitbread	1,400
LASMO	4,000	Wolseley	1,300
Ladbroke ▼	3,400	Zeneca	1,100

WALL STREET

	Mar 5 midday	Mar 4 close
AMP Inc	38¼	38½
AMR Corp	81¼	80¾
ASA	35½	36¼
AT & T	36¼	36
Abbott Labs	56½	55¾
Advanced Micro	38¾	38½
Aetna Life	85½	85¼
Ahmanson (HF)	41¼	41½
Air Prod & Chem	72½	73½
AirTouch Comm	27¼	27¼
Alberto-Culver B	29½	29¾
Albertson's	35½	35¼
Alcan Alumnm	36	35½
Allied Signal	71½	70¾
Alum Co of Am	71½	72¾
Amax Gold Inc	7½	7½
Amerada Hess	53¾	52¾
Amer Brands	53	52¾
Amer El Power	41½	41¼
Amer Express	66½	65¼
Amer Genl Corp	42¼	43¼
Amer Home Pr	63¾	62¾
Amer Intl	122¾	121½
Amer Stores	43¾	44
Amer Standard	46¼	46
Ameritech	62¼	62¾
Amoco	85¾	84¾
Anheuser-Busch	43¾	43¾
Apple Computer	16¼	16½
Archer Daniels	18½	18¾
Armco	3¾	3¾
Armstrng Wrld	70¾	69¾
Asarco	29¾	30¼
Atl Richfield	126½	126
Auto Data Pro	44½	43¾
Avery Dennison	40¾	40¾
Avon Products	59¾	59¾
Baker Hughes	37½	36¾
Baltim Gas & El	27¾	27¼
Banc One	45¼	45
BankAmerica	116¼	114¼
Bank of NY	39¾	38¾
Bankers Tr NY	93¾	92¾
Barnett Banks	47¼	46¾
Bausch & Lomb	37¼	37½
Baxter Intl	46¼	46¼
Becton Dicknsn	49¼	49¾
Bell Atlantic	67¼	67¾
Bell Industries	22¼	22¼
BellSouth	45	45
Black & Decker	31½	32¾
Block (H&R)	29¼	29¾
Boeing	102¼	100¾
Boise Cascade	33¾	33¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	67¾	66¾
Browning Ferris	31½	31½
Brunswick	29¼	29
Burlington Nthn	84¾	84¾
CMS Energy Corp	32¼	32¼
CNA Financial	111¼	111¼
CPC Intl	83¾	84¼
CSX	51	50¾
Campbell Soup	89¼	89¾
Can Pacific	25½	25
Carolina Pwr	37	37¼
Caterpillar	78¾	78¼
Central & SW	25¾	25¾
Champion Intl	43¼	43¼
Chase Manhat	103	101¼
Chevron Corp	65¾	65¼
Chrysler	31¼	31¼
Chubb Corp	59¼	59¾
Cigna Corp	153¼	153¾
Citicorp	120¾	118¾
Clorox	120¼	120¼
Coastal Corp	47	47¼
Coca Cola	59¾	59¾
Coca Cola Ent	63¼	63¼
Colgate-Palm	104¾	104¼
Columbia Gas	60¾	60¾
ColumbiaHCA	42¼	43
Compaq Comp	80¼	81¼
Comp Ass Intl	44	43¼
Conagra	53¾	52¼
Conrail	112¼	112¼
Cons Edison	31¼	31¼
Cons Nat Gas	52	51¼
Cooper Inds	43¼	44¼
Corestates	53¾	52¾
Corning Inc	38¼	38
Crown Cork	54¾	53¾
Dana Corp	31¾	31¾
Dayton Hudson	41¾	41
Deere	42¼	41½
Delta Air Lines	83¾	83¼
Deluxe Corp	32¼	31¼
Digital Equip	33¾	32¾
Dillard Dept St	30¾	30
Disney (Walt)	72¼	72¼
Dominion Res	40¾	40
Donnelley (RR)	36	36¾
Dover Corp	49¾	50¼
Dow Chemical	81¼	81¼
Dow Jones	41¾	42¼
Dresser	31	30¾
Duke Power	44¼	44¼
Dun & Brdstreet	24¼	24¼
Du Pont	110¾	109¼
Eastman Chem	55¾	55
Eastman Kodak	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Mar 5 midday	Mar 4 close
Eaton Corp	72¼	72
Edison Intl	21¼	21¼
Elect Data Sys	45¼	45¼
Emerson Elec	99¾	98¾
Engelhard Corp	21¼	22
Enron Corp	40¾	40¾
Entergy	27	26½
Ethyl Corp	9¾	9½
Exxon	101½	100
FMC Corp	68¾	68¾
FPL Group	45¼	45¾
Federal Express	53½	53
First Bk Sys	80¾	79½
First Union Rlty	12¼	12¼
Fleet Finl Grp	62¼	61¼
Floor Corp	61	59¾
Ford Motor	32¾	31¾
GTE Corp	46¾	46¼
Gannett	79¾	79¾
Gap Inc Del	32¼	32¼
Gencorp	19¼	19
Gen Dynamics	66	65¾
Gen Electric	101½	101¼
Gen Mills	65¼	64¼
Gen Motors	57¼	57¼
Gen Reinsurance	170¾	171¼
Gen Signal	43¼	43¾
Genuine Parts	46¾	47
Georgia Pac	76¼	76¼
Gillette	81	80¾
Glaxo Wellc ADR	33¼	33¼
Goodrich (BF)	41¼	41¼
Goodyear Tire	53¾	53
Grt Atl Pac Tea	30¾	30¼
Great Wstn Fin	44¼	44
Halliburton	66¾	65
Harcourt General	47¼	47¾
Heinz (HJ)	42¾	42
Hercules	46¼	46¼
Hershey Foods	44¼	44¼
Hewlett Packard	58¼	57¼
Hilton Hotels	25	24¼
Home Depot	55¾	59¾
Homestake Mng	15¼	15¼
Honeywell	73	72¼
Household Intl	97¼	97
Houston Inds	23¼	23¼
Humana	21¼	21¼
ITT Corp	57	56¼
Ikon Office	41¼	41¼
Illinois Tool	84¼	84
Illinova	24¼	24¼
INCO	35¾	35¼
Ingersoll Rand	46¾	46¼
Inland Steel	19¼	19¼
Intel Corp	148¼	146¾
IBM	145¼	144¼
Intl Flav & Fr	46	45¼
Intl Paper	42	41¼
James River Va	33¾	33¼
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	58¾	57¼
Kellogg	68¼	68¼
Kerr-McGee	63	63¼
Kimberly-Clark	109¼	109¾
Kmart	13¼	12¼
Knight-Ridder	40	40
Lilly (Eli)	87¼	86¼
Limited Inc	18¼	18¼
Lincoln Nat	57¼	57¼
Litton	42¼	43
Liz Claiborne	42¼	41¼
Lockheed Martin	89¼	88¼
Louisiana Pac	21¼	21¼
MCI Comm	35¼	35¼
Manpower Inc	38¼	38¼
Marriott Intl	50¼	50¾
Marsh & McLnn	118¼	118¾
Masco Corp	35¼	35¼
May Dept St	47	47¼
Maytag Corp	22¼	22¼
McDonalds	44¼	44¼
McDonnell D	64¼	62¼
McGraw Hill	51¼	51¼
Mead Corp	58¼	57¼
Medtronic	64¼	63
Mellon Bk	82¼	81¼
Merck Inc	91¼	91¼
Merrill Lynch	95¼	95¼
Microsoft	99¼	99¾
Minnesota Mine	90¾	90¼
Mobil Corp	129¼	127¼
Monsanto	37¼	37
Morgan (JP)	106¼	105¼
Motorola Inc	57¼	57¼
Natl Semi	29¼	28¼
Natl Service Ind	38	38¼
Navistar Intl	9¼	9¼
NY Times A	44¼	44
Newmont Mng	45¼	46¼
Niag Mohawk	10¼	10¼
Nike B	72¼	71¼
NL Industries	11¼	11¼
Noram Energy	15	15¼
Nordstrom	37¼	37¼
Norfolk Sthrn	92¼	93
Nthn State Pwr	47¼	47¼
Norwest Corp	50¼	50¼
Nynex Corp	50¼	50¼
Occidental Pet	25¼	25¼
Ohio Edison	22¼	22¼

	Mar 5 midday	Mar 4 close
Oracle	39¾	39¾
Oryx Energy Co	20¾	20¾
Overseas Ship	17	17
Owens Corning	42¼	42¾
PHH Corp	48	48
PPG Industries	56	55¾
PNC Bank	43¾	42¾
PP&L Res	22¾	22¼
Paccar Inc	69¼	68¾
Pacificorp	20¾	20¾
Pac Enterprises	30¼	30¼
Pac Telesis	40¼	40¼
Pall Corp	21½	21½
Parker Hannifin	44¼	44¾
Peco Energy	22	22¼
Penney (JC)	49	48¾
Pennzoil	56¼	55¼
Pepsico	32¼	32¾
Pfizer	91½	90¾
Pharm & Upjhn	37¾	36¾
Phelps Dodge	72	71¾
Philip Morris	134¾	134¾
Phillips Pet	42¼	41¾
Pitney Bowes	62¾	62¾
Polaroid	41¼	41¾
Procter & Gmbl	119½	119¾
Providian	56¼	56¾
Pub Serv E & G	28¼	28¾
Quaker Oats	36¼	36
Ralston Purina	81½	82¼
Raychem Corp	86¾	86¾
Raytheon	46¾	47
Reebok Intl	48¾	49¾
Reynolds Metals	62¾	62¼
Rockwell Intl	64¼	63¾
Rohm & Haas	93¾	93¾
Royal Dutch	175¾	172¾
Rubbermaid	23¾	23¾
SBC Comms	56¾	56¼
Safeco Corp	40¾	40¾
St Paul's Cos	67¼	68¾
Salomon Inc	56¾	56¾
Sara Lee Corp	39	38¾
Schering Plough	77¾	77¾
Schlumberger	104¾	103¾
Seagram	38¾	38¾
Sears Roebuck	55	54¾
Shell Trans	103¾	102¾
Sherwin Wlms	56¾	56
Skyline Corp	24¾	24
Snap-On Tools	40	39¾
Southern Co	21¼	21¾
Sprint Corp	44¾	44¾
Stanley Works	38¾	38¾
Sun Company	27¾	27¾
Sun Microsys	30¾	30¾
Suntrust	51¼	51¾
Supervalu	30¾	30¾
Sysco Corp	33¾	33¾
TRW Inc	52¾	52¼
TCC Inds	1¾	1¾
Tandem Comp	13¾	13¾
Tandy Corp	51¼	50¾
Temple Inland	54¾	54¾
Tenneco	39¾	39¾
Texaco	101½	101¾
Texas Inst	81¾	82
Texas Utilities	40	40¾
Textron	100¾	99¾
Time Warner	43¾	42¾
Times-Mirror A	52¾	52¾
Timken	57¾	57¾
Torchmark	58¾	58¾
Toys R Us	27¾	28¾
Transamerica	86¾	87¾
Travelers	53¾	52¾
Tribune	39	38¾
Tyco Intl	58¾	58¾
UST Inc	30¾	30¾
UAL	64	63¾
US Inds	36¾	36¾
US West Comm	34¾	34¾
US West Media	18¾	18¾
USAirways Group	21¼	20¾
USX Marathon	26¾	26¾
Unicom	22¾	22¾
Unilever NV	185¾	187¾
Union Camp	48¾	48¾
Union Carbide	47¾	47¾
Union Pacific	62	62
Unisys Corp	6¾	6¾
USF&G Corp	22	22¾
US Life	47¾	47¾
United Tech	74¾	73¾
Unocal Corp	39¾	39
VF Corp	68¾	68¾
WMX Tech	32¾	32
Wal-Mart Stores	26¾	26¾
Warner-Lambert	82¾	81¾
Wells Fargo	305¾	310¾
Westinghouse El	19¾	19
Weyerhaeuser	46¾	46¾
Whirlpool	50¾	50
Whitman	23¾	23¾
Winn Dixie	31¾	31¾
Woolworth	21¾	21¾
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	58¾	59
Xerox	62¾	62¾
Yellow Corp	17¾	[illegible]

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Papouis retains Pollard

MORE on NatWest's trials and tribulations. I can report that Kyriacos Papouis, the former trader at the centre of an investigation into a £50 million write-off at NatWest, has retained Stephen Pollard of Kingsley Napley, the law firm, to represent his interests.

Pollard is best-known for his skilful handling of Nick Leeson's case, including the rogue trader's interrogation by fraud squad officers in his Frankfurt prison cell and the subsequent court case in Singapore. More importantly for Papouis is that Pollard, Napley's youngest equity partner, is an expert on City regulation.

Election tipple

TRUE-BLUE Archie Norman is cashing in on the forthcoming elections with a selection of political ales. The prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate, who unwittingly predicted a Labour victory, will be stocking Asda's shelves with Major's Mild, Tony's Tipple, and Ashdown's Ale.

The Conservative brew is modestly described as "a great British beer that has been popular for some years now with the landed gentry and the City. Perhaps for the richer palate and rumoured to be good for the constitution."

Tony's Tipple is described as "a Labour of love. It had mass appeal back in the Seventies followed by a fall in demand. The beer is now enjoying something of a comeback." Curiously, the only election beer label Asda sent back to the drawing board was Tony's Tipple — "for the social drinker".

"I had this most marvellous dream in which Tiny took over at Lonrho"

Distinctive note

GRAHAM KENTFIELD will take a copy of a 200-year-old pound note to West Wales today. The visit by the Bank of England's chief cashier is to mark the bicentenary of the ill-fated invasion of 1,400 Frenchmen at Fishguard in 1797. Their arrival led to panic in the Square Mile: there was a run on the Bank's gold reserves, and it became necessary to issue, for the first time, £1 and £2 notes.

Curry flavour

CITY types know a good restaurant when they see one — or at least they think they do. So it comes as no surprise that Christopher Reeves, the chairman of Merrill Lynch Europe, made certain he was heard when it came to making a nomination for the London Restaurant Awards. He both faxed and sent a hard copy of his nomination to the award organisers, hailing Chutney Mary's in King's Road, Chelsea, his number one curry haunt.

UNDER the spotlight at a Downing Street press conference yesterday, Peter Lilley was somewhat tongue-tied. Unveiling plans to abolish Serps, the Social Security Secretary referred to Britain's "biggest spread of home ownership". Quickly, he corrected himself: "Oops, I mean person ownership." No Peter, I think you mean pension ownership.

MORAG PRESTON

Small earthquake from Chile, not many votes

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

A strange air of unreality gathers over politicians when they start thinking about pensions. Conservative and Labour alike switch into their most statesmanlike mode when confronted with the ticking demographic timebomb of ageing, supposedly about to hit Britain with the force of an off-course meteor. No matter that the suspect package contains only a small device. It could cause moderate fiscal damage in 30 years time but should by then be deactivated by greater saving, a higher birth rate, longer working lives, immigration, steadier growth or some other combination of natural economic processes.

Fired by the "need" to address a long-term issue and egged on by life assurance groups ravenous for new products, the parties have duly shown their modern colours. New Labour has applied relentlessly sensible pragmatism, ending with a mishmash of modest, overlapping, politically correct proposals to extend the voluntary pensions net.

Conservatives were expected to phase out the tatty state earnings related pension scheme (Serps). Instead they have applied free-market ideology rigorously, devising a radical programme to privatise the universal or "basic" state pension and to enforce compulsory private saving. Oddly, their proposals attack a problem that does not really exist. And if it did, they would not solve it.

The real pension issue is to persuade people to save more voluntarily to meet higher costs and expectations in retirement and make good the withering away of the basic state pension. While both parties devise new schemes of varying merit, however, the existing occupational pension system is also withering away.

In contrast to the total social security budget, the burden of the basic state pension has tumbled in the past 15 years, to about 4 per cent of national income. Taxpayers have saved far more by indexing the pension to prices instead of earnings than they have spent paying pensions to more people for longer. The slice of the national cake now used for basic pensions would amply cover a sharper rise in the number of pensioners between 2015 and 2030.

If we designed a new pension system from scratch, we might well adopt Chile's model of forced saving with a limited choice of highly regulated providers, instead of a pay-as-you go tax transfer between the generations. The International Finance Corporation commends it for emerging countries with unstable governments as well as for collapsed former communist states where pension rights have been wiped out by inflation. For a stable developed country, it still has the advantage of channeling money into private business, but also the fundamental drawback of forcing two generations (who cannot yet vote) to pay both for their own pensions and for other people's.

Privatising the basic state pension aims to restrict the maw of the state and cut the tax burden. In reality, it will raise the tax burden, mainly to replace lost national insurance contributions. Just as rent deregulation and VAT on fuel boosted social security spending, just as rail privatisation intially boosted subsidies, so the Chilean experiment would have the opposite effect to that intended in the short term. In this case, the short-term could be more than 40 years.

Worst of all, this irrelevant vote-loser could well cut total retirement pensions. The aim is to replace most of the lost NICs by abolishing tax relief on all the new generation's pension contributions, shifting relief to pensions in payment. By the normal laws of supply and demand, you would expect this to cut demand for voluntary second-tier pensions, which should provide the bulk of retirement income for most people. This disincentive would be even greater if people believed that the privatised pension would be bigger than the state pension it replaced.

Conveniently, free-marketeers now contend that reliefs do not affect savings. Without up-front reliefs, however, the same proportion of income saved will yield a smaller pension. It is too easy to forget that investment returns affect pensions as much as contributions. Without contribution relief, money-purchase pension schemes might well disappear in favour of more flexible Pep-type savings vehicles.

Three threats already hang over pensions. Mis-selling of personal pensions after earlier attempts to scale down Serps led to a collapse of the market, which is only now recovering. The providers are just the sort of companies to whom the basic state pension would be handed over. They need to demonstrate that they can provide pensions at much lower cost for low earners or those with irregular incomes before they can even be entrusted with more money that would have gone into Serps.

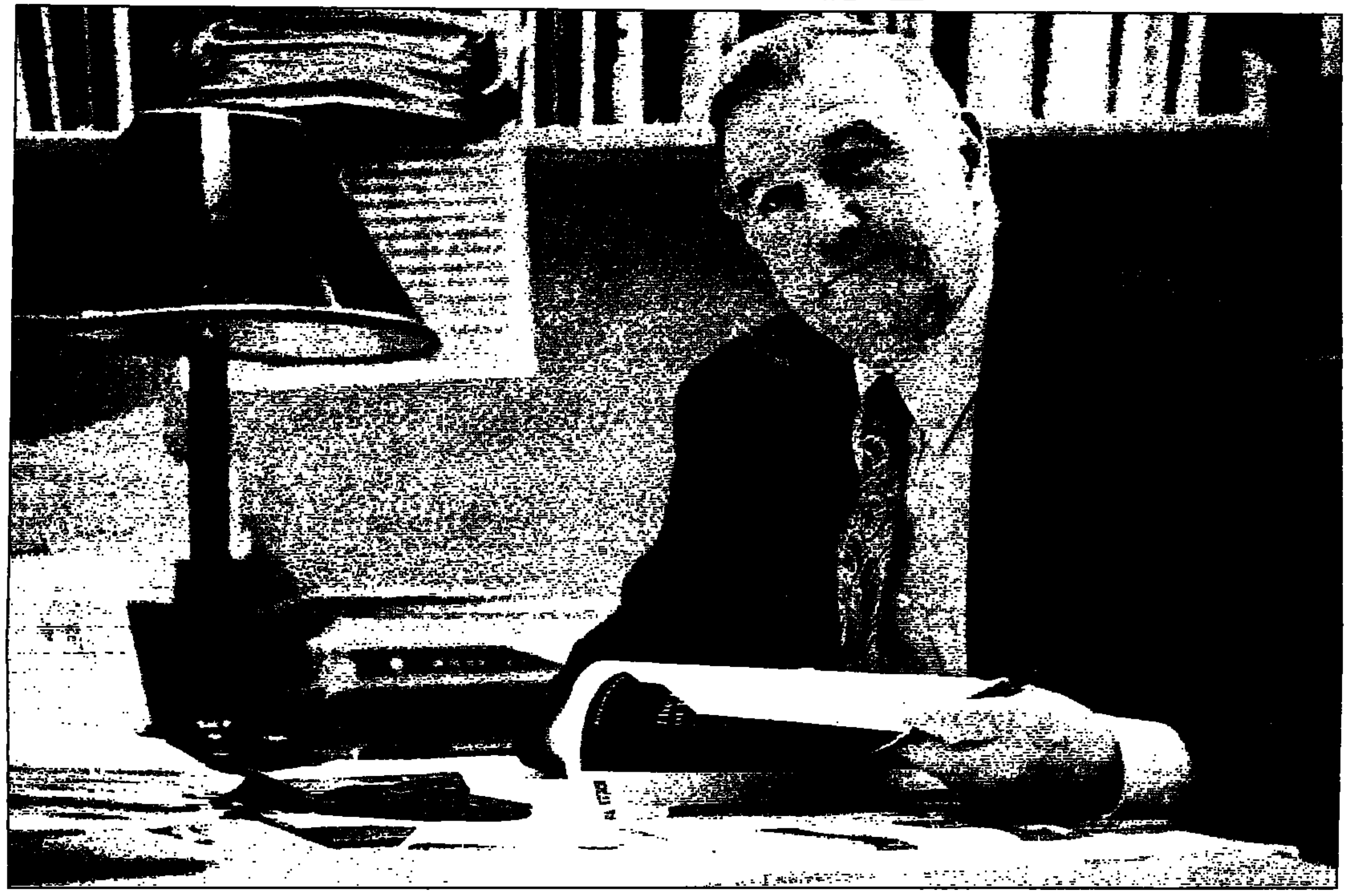
The tougher investment standards imposed by the new Pensions Act, allied to City pressure on companies to restrict variable pension costs are persuading a growing stream of employers to abandon schemes guaranteed to pay pensions according to final salary. These are being replaced by money-purchase funds that are simpler and potentially better but drastically underfunded. Combined contributions are typically 10 per cent of pay rather than 15 per cent plus. Many more employers will switch to cheap fixed-cost schemes once contribution holidays paid for by the share boom end.

Finally, both parties' Treasury teams are eyeing the vast potential taxes "lost" through pension scheme perks. Labour, in particular, may well end tax relief on dividends and restrict gains tax relief. Again, that will cut returns and ultimately cut pensions.

Earners must pay for non-earners, through taxes or by profits and interest taking a thicker slice of the national cake. Instead of addressing poverty, the key to expanding that cake, we seem to be limbering up for a fiscal war between the generations. Suicide kits for the retired, whether private or free on the National Health, may not be far away.

LibDems passionately sell distinct economic approach

Janet Bush says Malcolm Bruce has declared a plague on both Labour and the Tories



Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokesman, appears not to be attracted to a strategy of cosying up to the Labour Party

The joint statement on constitutional reform published yesterday by Labour and the Liberal Democrats gave proof, if any were needed, that the two parties are likely to cooperate closely in the event of a Labour election victory.

But, even as the final touches were being agreed, Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokesman, vehemently denied any favouritism towards Labour and bias against the Conservatives as far as the economy was concerned. In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Bruce declared a plague on both their houses.

"We are trying to get across to people this message. You know you want rid of the Tories, but you know in your hearts that Labour hasn't got the answer. It is a party which has torn its heart out. It has no philosophy. Its only philosophy is do whatever is necessary to win. But then what?"

An independent-minded Scot and a member of the Liberal Party since he was 17, a strategy of cosying up to Labour appears to hold few attractions for Mr Bruce.

He urges the electorate to vote Liberal Democrat on its merits, passionately selling an array of economic policies that are quite distinct from the offerings of the two main electoral contenders. There are three main areas where Liberal Democrat policy is resolutely different. It is the only party that openly advocates raising taxes and the only party unequivocally committed to making the Bank of England independent and joining a single currency.

On tax, Mr Bruce has committed himself to a 1p rise in the standard rate of income tax and a 50p higher rate tax band for those earning more than £100,000 a year. That would plough £2 billion a year into education in each of the five years of the next Parliament and provide funds to take half a million low-paid workers out of the tax net as well as blunt the impact of the rise in the standard rate for many others by raising personal allowances. In addition, the Liberal Democrats have promised to put an extra 5p on a packet of cigarettes, using the money to abolish charges for eye and dental checks. The beauty of the programme is that it is costed, overtly devotes funds to address the key issues of low pay and education, and even demonstrates in a concrete way how funds can be redistributed to reflect different priorities — a strategy touted by Labour but not detailed in any way.

Mr Bruce is scathing about the two main parties' refusal to acknowledge a need to raise taxes to pay for improvements in public services that the electorate demands and is being promised. He says there is plenty of evidence that voters understand quite a lot of people will not get something for nothing, but, nevertheless, they are not being told the truth.

"They have been deceived by the Tories who have claimed to cut taxes and have actually across the board increased them so that they are higher than they were under the last Labour government. They have only been able to finance their programme over the last 17 years by selling off the family silver and they are running out of things to sell. The Tories are asking questions as to how other parties will finance their programme. I think it is a very big question mark as to how the Conservatives could finance another Parliament." But Labour comes in for just as much flak. "They will do as the Tories do, which is find other taxes, probably less progressive taxes than income tax, less fair taxes, ones that will hit the poor harder than the better off. It is a fair betrayal of what Labour once stood for."

For all the vehemence of his position, Mr Bruce is pursuing an uncomfortable and, in some ways, limited middle route. He has to admit that £2 billion a year will not solve all the shortcomings of Britain's educational system, but he defends the programme on the ground that the other two parties are offering nothing. And, for all the courage of going into the election offering tax increases, he will not go so far as to say that there may be a deeper fiscal problem that must be tackled. It is difficult, he admits, for his party to go even further out on a limb given that the others refuse point blank to admit that there is any pressure on them to cut spending or raise taxes.

Mr Bruce shows little doubt on the two major changes his party offers on the conduct of monetary policy. He sides totally with the Bank of England on the recent disagreement with Kenneth Clarke on interest rates in the face of virtual unanimity in the City and the body politic that the Chancellor has probably got it right by resisting calls for higher rates. If anything, the Bank has not been tough enough in pursuing the Government's inflation target because, without full independence, it is not in a strong enough position.

But the current argument over rates is beside the point. The only thing that matters is that decisions are taken out of the hands of politicians. "I defy you to convince me that a Chancellor of the Exchequer who is 20 points behind in the polls four months from an election doesn't have that in his mind when he is asked to consider interest rate changes," he says.

Mr Bruce argues that long-term rates could be 1.5 per cent lower than they are now if the Bank were independent, saving Britain £5 billion a year in interest charges on its borrowing. He also believes that the Bank should continue to have a single statutory purpose of bearing down on inflation, in contrast to Labour which wants to see the Bank to pursue economic growth as well. "Making the cultural shift in this country to the idea that permanently sustained low inflation is the bedrock of economic policy requires that this is the overriding objective. If you start to fragment that, there is a danger that you lose sight of that."

The same conviction that monetary policy is better handed over to the professionals appears to underly the commitment to a single currency. Mr Bruce expresses admiration for the determination to press ahead with monetary union in spite of all the difficulties. It is, he says, an ambitious project just like the European Union itself and the single market, both of which have come an incredible distance. But there is also a gut feeling that Britain has no right to sign up for something and then not play by the rules. "We seem to be in a position of having joined a tennis club and then complaining it's not a golf club."

He challenges British Eurosceptics to back up their opposition to a single currency with a realistic alternative. "This is the last chance for Britain to get on board or probably fall off completely. Increasingly, it seems that the Euro-sceptics are not opposing monetary union but want to take Britain out. But they have articulated nowhere where we can seriously go."

Jon Ashworth reflects on Dieter Bock's in and out career with Lonrho

Tiny's 'corporate son' rides off into sunset

When Dieter Bock first surfaced at Lonrho in February 1993, Tiny Rowland, the company's mercurial founder, could hardly have been more fulsome in his praise. The German property entrepeneur, then 53, was hailed as the heir-apparent, a prodigal son, a hero. Rowland, welcoming Bock as joint chief executive, said that the pair would work "happily, smoothly and indivisibly". They swiftly became known as the "indivisibles".

As marriages go, it did not last long. Barely six months into the job, reports of "tensions" were circulating. Indeed, in October 1993, Mr Rowland, then 75, said of the German entrepreneur: "I'm still waiting for some performance from him. So far, he hasn't delivered a stroke of business. Frankly, he hasn't got a clue." One can only imagine the atmosphere after that little episode.

Mr Bock's attempts to "normalise" Lonrho continued in early 1994, with the ousting of four of Mr Rowland's long-standing boardroom allies. Later in the year, Lonrho issued a terse statement announcing that Mr Rowland was to resign as joint managing director and chief executive. He was invited to stay on as president, and would continue to draw a £1.2 million salary.

Then came the *coup de grâce*. In March 1995, Mr Rowland was handed a letter telling him he was being removed as a director, employee and president-elect. There was no payoff, and — outrageously — he would no longer have the run of Lonrho's Gulfstream GIV jet. Mr Rowland was "totally shocked", and swore to pursue Mr Bock "until the end of his days". He went on to rubbish Mr Bock's performance in at least two circulars, distributed at great expense to Lonrho's 54,000 shareholders.

Hardly surprising, perhaps, that Mr Bock has had enough. He initiated the process last October when he sold his 18 per cent stake to Anglo American, the South African mining colossus, for £257 million, and stepped down as Lonrho's chief executive. He retires as a director at the Lonrho annual meeting in two weeks.

How will Mr Bock be remembered in years to come? To some extent he is as much of an enigma as when he first came on the scene four years ago; the quietly-spoken German property entrepreneur who found himself embroiled in British boardroom politics. Born in the former East Germany, his family moved to West Germany in 1956. He studied law and accountancy and went on to form his own consulting firm in Frankfurt in 1973. He began investing in real estate the following year, and later extended his property interests to South Africa and America.

Nobody has ever been quite sure how Mr Bock made his money, and he seems to like it that way. Intensely private, he is married, with four children, enjoys sailing and is a patron of the arts. He is commonly associated with two companies: Advanta Management, which at one time had a stake in Kempinski, the hotel group, and Laerstate, a privately owned company registered in The Netherlands.

There was a time when Mr Rowland would introduce his new-found partner as "my corporate son, Dieter Bock, who will replace me". Towards the end, he was more fond of observations such as: "Mr Bock doesn't own a single asset in his own name, except his bicycle — and perhaps his wife."

Mr Bock has got on his bike.

Rowland: victim of coup

BUSINESS LETTERS

Eversholt was undervalued

From Mr Brian Hutchinson

Sir, The lead story in your business section of February 20 about the £42 million profit for the four directors of Eversholt Leasing does, I agree with Labour, warrant a Commons debate. Had these gentlemen gained, say £1 million each, that would seem reasonable alongside the £230,000 received by the other 66 Eversholt employees.

What is also worrying is the personal profit gained by the four directors of Candover, the venture capital backers of the buyout who share between them £600,000, presumably on top of fees and commissions earned by their company.

I work in the private sector for a major plc and find it difficult to imagine how the rolling stock companies could have been so undervalued by the Transport Department. Could it be that the DoT only really understands value for money in road terms? This would explain their rather quaint attitude to the rail network.

As I stand in the rain on Southampton Parkway Station each weekday morning with my (£5K plus) season ticket in my pocket, I find it increasingly difficult to support the privatisation of the railways. A few people have made millions overnight, the services are certainly no better, and I no longer have any ownership of our railways. Where is the "value added" we were all promised?

Yours faithfully,

BRIAN HUTCHINSON,
10 Oakwood Court,
Oakwood Close,
Chandlers Ford,
Hampshire.

Moral maze over genetic testing

From Mr Richard Hawkes

Sir, Pennington (*The Times* Business, February 19) is of the view that "the insurance industry will one day have to take a moral stand and forbid refusal of cover", even where genetic testing shows that provision of that cover is likely to lead to a loss.

What moral attitude should a member of the public take if he knows that:

☐ his genetic testing shows he will die early;
☐ insurance companies are required to provide him with cover at a price suitable for people in good health?

It's all very well for the organiser to run a lottery that no one wins, but who would run one that self-selected people would never lose?

Yours faithfully,

C.R.C. HAWKES

Lane Clark & Peacock,
St Paul's House,
St Paul's Hill,
Winchester,
Hampshire.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

British innovation 'is being blunted by a financial vacuum'

Fraser Nelson and **Ashley Potter** discover a worrying aversion to corporate venturing

BETWEEN the first and second halves of *News at Ten*, viewers not making a cup of tea have recently been treated to a weird advert singing the praises of Bill Gates. Microsoft and the Nasdaq stock market. It charts the software company's success and closes by asking where else investors could find companies capable of such meteoric growth.

Withers, the City law firm, has come up with a suggestion why the London Stock Exchange cannot muster similar success stories to boast about.

In a report released today, it points out that Microsoft was born from start-up funds provided by a company willing to commit money to someone who was little more than a Harvard drop-out with a good idea. After targeting the FT-SE 350 companies, it has found Britain's top businesses are much more averse to risk, creating a culture where a young Master Gates would have been given short shrift.

As a result, it says, Britain is falling into the laggards' league in the international technology stakes.

For six months, Withers has been taking the pulse of corporate venturing: where large companies invest in smaller development companies in the same field. It is intended as a long-term plan, using money more efficiently than with in-house development.

The Withers report found that most British companies are unwilling to make such an investment. David Gebbie, the author of the report, believes this reluctance is blunting the country's competitive edge. He said: "It seems that the UK is in danger of becoming a nation of shopkeepers selling products developed in other countries.

"This is not through a lack of innovation, but through a financial vacuum which is leaving many of them without the vital funds they need to develop. If we don't do something about it now and re-evaluate the importance of corporate venturing we will fall behind the opposition."

The report found that the core of companies that had tried corporate venturing did so for long-term growth and as part of a diversification strategy. More than 35 per cent of those involved in venturing said they considered it vital for commercial survival. Where there were problems, these were caused by companies trying to exert control over the smaller company. Most firms that would not consider corporate venturing said they were unwilling to accept the "hands-off" attitude which is crucial to success.

The reluctance is being felt by Britain's inventors, who are today staging an exhibition of their devices in London. It is being organised by Inventor Link, which helps inventors to market their inventions. Richard Paine, chairman of Inventor Link, said: "There is no lack of venture capital floating around. The problem is that it only comes in chunks of millions. The people we organise only need tranches of £100,000 to develop. This can only be bad for Britain's long-term prospects."

Corporate venturing would not seem to offer much of a solution. The survey found that the average sum invested was around £500,000 — — *half the average investment* of a venture capitalist, but still way out of the average inventor's league.

Mr Gebbie says that any further improvement in the situation would need a fundamental shift in the nation's way of looking at ventures. "In Britain, if you try something and fail, then you are seen as a loser," he said. "In the US, if you fail you are seen as a trier. It is this philosophical difference which is the problem."

BICC keeps cash tight to cut debts by £225m

By Oliver August

BICC, the cable and construction group, reduced its debts from £305 million to £80 million last year but expects continuing problems in the European building sector.

Alan Jones, chief executive, said: "We have managed our cash very tightly; these numbers are better than had been expected." Contrary to the current trend, the group benefited from exchange rate changes. The value of its dollar-denominated contracts rose and copper price changes boosted cashflows.

Mr Jones said: "With our improved financial position, we are continuing with investments with considerable capital expenditure in 1997. Projects will be completed in 1997 and 1998 and will contribute to further growth."

The squeeze on government spending in Europe to fit economies for monetary union has prolonged the construction slump. In the UK, BICC escaped the depressed conditions by developing a rail maintenance division that incorporates several former British Rail units and is already profitable.

Market conditions in the European cable sector were "particularly difficult" in the first part of 1997, but Mr Jones said: "We do, however, expect the improvements in our growth areas of business to continue, with an emphasis on the second half."

Results for the year to December 31 show pre-tax profits up 18 per cent, to £129 million. Earnings per share rose to 13p from 9p, and the dividend was lifted to 12.5p from 12.41p. Revenue increased to £4.7 billion from £4.4 billion.

Balfour Beatty, the main construction and engineering business, saw profits fall to £10 million from £18 million but BICC stressed that, after revamping the management, it now expected gradual improvements in performance.

The group said it continued to strengthen its position in selected regions of the world, with improvements in its established businesses in Indonesia and the Middle East. Overall, the Balfour Beatty order book, now including that of the acquired rail units, stands at £2.3 billion, with 34 per cent outside the UK.

In cables, the major rationalisation programme announced over the last 15 months benefited European and North American operations. Profits in BICC Cables improved 19 per cent, to £94 million, but the second half was adversely affected by a gap in the normal order pattern for the profitable extra high-voltage cable business and increasingly difficult trading conditions in Europe.

Tempus, page 28

Five brick plants sold by Ibstock

IBSTOCK has sold five brick-making plants for £53 million and will use the proceeds to reduce borrowings.

The plants have been sold to Ambion Brick company, which paid £44 million on completion and will pay a further £3 million in instalments, with interest, over 21 months.

A further £6 million is payable by Redland under an agreement entered into at the time of the acquisition by Ibstock of Redland Bricks last July.

The five plants are the subject of undertakings given by Ibstock to the Trade and Industry Department in July 1996.

The brick plants are at Eldon and Todhills in Durham, Steer Point in Plymouth, and Warnham and Wealden in West Sussex. They have a combined manufacturing capacity of 174 million bricks a year and net assets of about £50 million.

Ambion is a new company formed by Royal Bank Development Capital.

PETER TREVNOR

Climbing higher: Paul Davies, chief executive of Parity, left, and David Firth, finance director, enjoyed a good year

Unemployed flock to Wales in search of Korean jobs

By Our Industrial Staff

THOUSANDS of jobseekers from all over Britain have joined the rush for work at the Korean microchip project in South Wales.

Kelter International, a recruitment firm, revealed that 5,000 hopefuls from as far afield as Scotland and Somerset had applied for work at the two LG electronics factories being built at Newport.

More than 6,000 jobs are being created in the £1.7 billion expansion, the biggest Far East investment ever made in Europe. Nick Pilgim, recruiting consultant at Kelter, said 60 per cent of registered applications had come from outside Wales.

He added: "Wales has become a huge magnet for people seeking long-term, secure careers and there could be over 30,000 job vacancies on offer." As well as 6,000 LG jobs, it is estimated that 22,000 more workers will be required to fill posts in scores of companies supplying the Koreans with components and services. About 5,000 construction workers will also be needed to build the LG complex and Millennium projects in other parts of South Wales.

Mr Pilgrim said the jobseekers were attracted to Wales as a country and because of the "security element in the jobs on offer".

LG will make computer monitors, large-screen TVs and semi-conductors for the electronics industry. The first phase will start production by the end of the year.

Flotation still in Optus sights

From Rachel Bridge in Sydney

OPTUS Communications, Australia's second largest telephone company, in which Cable and Wireless has a 24.5 per cent stake, yesterday confirmed that it still plans to float on the stock market this year once litigation over its pay-TV joint venture is resolved.

The group, which began operating in Australia five years ago, was forced to postpone its A$4 billion (£2 billion) float last year after it was unable to issue a prospectus because of a dispute between Optus Vision, its 46.5 per cent owned subsidiary, and the Seven Network, the Australian television station.

Ziggy Switkowski, chief executive, said a 1997 float was "still very much our desire". Optus made net profits of A$59 million (A$7 million) in the half year to December 31, with total revenues up 32 per cent at A$1.2 billion.

Optus, established five years ago, now has an 18 per cent share of the long distance market and 32 per cent of the total mobile phone market.

Profits and payout soar at Parity

By Our City Staff

PARITY, the computer software and services group, increased annual pre-tax profits from £6.5 million to £10.1 million in the year to December 31. Earnings grew from 10.34p to 15.81p and the total dividend for the year rises from 2.5p to 4p.

The current year has started well in an improving market, particularly on the Continent. Parity said that the millennium issue is attracting "increasing attention" and will be "important" to Parity, "as may the considerable software reworking which would result from monetary union".

Parity anticipates further "add-on" acquisitions this year, mainly in Britain and probably in the solutions business. The company said: "We studied a number [of acquisitions] over 1996 and see potential targets regularly but nothing is on the cards at the moment." The company added: "We also believe that the trend to self-employment, which is particularly logical in the fast changing technology sector, will continue and this is encouraging for the Parity business model."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Loss turns to profit at Thomson-CSF

THOMSON-CSF, the French defence-electronics group that is being privatised, recovered to show a net profit of FFr745 million in 1996 from a loss of FFr791 million in 1995. The value of orders on December 31 exceeded FFr67 billion, the company said. Sales rose 2.2 per cent to FFr36.27 billion. The French Government intends to sell Thomson-CSF by direct negotiation and has signalled that it wants the company to become a centre of the French, and even European defence industries capable of competing throughout the world with leading American electronics groups.

The two bidders so far are the French Lagardère Groupe, which won an abandoned first round of privatisation at the end of last year, and Alcatel-Alsthom, the French group, which now plans to link its offer with the merger of Dassault and Aérospatiale, the French groups. Thomson-CSF owns 17.4 per cent of SGS-Thomson, a French-Italian company, but is likely to dispose of this holding when it is privatised.

Metal Bulletin ahead

METAL BULLETIN, the business information company, reported an increase in pre-tax profits to £5.1 million in 1996, from £4.23 million in the previous year. Turnover of £22.8 million compared with £19.8 million previously. Earnings were 34.4p a share, rising from 28.3p. The total dividend is increased to 20p a share from 16p, with a 14.2p final. Trevor Tarring, the chairman, said that the company was confident about the long-term success of its newly launched Internet businesses.

Eadie shares tumble

EADIE HOLDINGS shares fell 4½p to 10p after the company said the results for the year ended December 31 will fall significantly short of market expectations and that the final dividend would be scrapped. Michael Green has resigned as managing director and Peter Bromwich has resigned as non-executive chairman but will remain as a non-executive director. John Kembery has been appointed executive chairman. The company said it may not follow its usual timetable this year for announcing its year-end figures.

Proposals on the pint

THE Government is inviting comments on a proposal to extend the guest beer provision to include one bottle-conditioned beer. John Taylor, the Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, said that because of the recent debate about the legality of the guest beer provision under European law, the Government "discussed this change with the European Commission, which has indicated that it would fully support such an extension". Representations should be made in writing to the Department of Trade and Industry by April 21.

Crédit Suisse in red

CRÉDIT SUISSE, the second biggest Swiss banking group, has slumped into the red for the first time in its 140-year history, incurring a loss of SFr2.43 billion (£1.01 billion) last year. The bank said that the loss stemmed from restructuring measures and the introduction of a management system costing SFr5.4 billion. In 1995, the bank earned profits of SFr1.54 billion. The bank said that operating profits fell to SFr1.79 billion from SFr1.81 billion. The bank is holding the total dividend at SFr4.

Finelist raises payout

FINELIST, the distributor, retailer and marketer of automotive components, raised pre-tax profits to £7.1 million from £4.05 million in the half year to December 31. Earnings per share rose from 8.2p to 10.3p and the dividend rises from 1.9p to 2.2p. Chris Swan, chairman, said all divisions were enjoying organic growth and the contributions from acquisitions were pleasing. "The directors view the prospects for the year to June 30 with continued confidence," he said.

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MITSUBISHI apricot

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Hardy Oil takes stake in India

Hardy Oil & Gas, the UK energy company, is acquiring a 15.5 per cent stake in Hindustan Oil, an independent Indian exploration and production company, for £2.9 million.

Hardy said that the Hindustan investment was the latest step in an investment programme that was begun last year and will see the company increasingly involved in exploration, appraisal and development activities in offshore India.

Hyundai plan

Hyundai Motor Company said that it is negotiating a $150 million joint venture with the Bimantara Group of Indonesia. Each party is currently in the process of obtaining governmental approvals. Hyundai said that further details of the joint venture will be released as soon as possible and it is anticipated that this will be no later than the end of June.

Ascot sales

Ascot Holdings said that it has exchanged contracts for the sale of Vantage House, Wimbledon, for £1.5 million. It said that following the renegotiation of a lease at Warboys Industrial Estate, Huntingdon, contracts have also been exchanged for the sale of this property for £3.025 million. Howard Dyer, chairman and chief executive of Ascot, said that the company is disposing of property assets to further reduce gearing.

Brandon deal

Brandon Hire has acquired the Southampton-based portable toilet hire business of BFI. The value of the net assets acquired is £80,000. Brandon Hire also said that it has acquired from Owen Brown the Snowdons furniture hire business. The value of these net assets is £50,000. Financial terms of the deals were not disclosed.

Associated British Ports delivers improved results

By Martin Barrow

ASSOCIATED British Ports Holdings, which invested a total of £83 million in transport facilities and investment property last year, expects capital expenditure to remain high in the current year before moderating in 1988.

The company, which operates ports and associated facilities in Immingham on the Humber, Southampton and South Wales, reported a steady rise in cargo volumes and said that the improved property market was creating opportunities to enhance earnings from its substantial property portfolio.

ABP reported a rise in pretax profits to £93.5 million in 1996, from £88.4 million in the previous year. Profits were struck after a £3 million charge against the withdrawal from Universal Pipe Coaters, a loss-making engineering joint venture, at Immingham. Underlying pre-tax profits rose 8.7 per cent to £96.5 million.

Sir Keith Stuart, chairman, said: "Our ports and transport business is well positioned to take advantage of continuing growth in the UK and world economies. We are also seeking to achieve additional expansion of the business by providing our customers at the ports with an increased range of services and facilities."

He added: "The improving property market is giving us opportunities to create added value from our extensive port estates and to provide an additional contribution from carefully targeted projects at other locations, with a particular emphasis on distribution and business space."

Ports and transport contributed profits of £107.8 million, up from £102.7 million, including port-related property income that rose to £28.9 million from £26.9 million. A total of 118 million tonnes of cargo passed through ABP's ports in 1996, an increase of 3.5 million tonnes, or 3.3 per cent. Higher volumes of steel exports, timber imports and unit load traffic were handled, partially offset by lower levels of steel and animal feed imports.

Gearing eased to 38.3 per cent at the year-end, from 40.9 per cent previously, and net borrowings were £351 million. The interest charge was reduced to £29.3 million, from £30.7 million.

Underlying earnings rose 7.4 per cent to 17.6p a share. A final dividend of 4.25p a share lifts the total to 7.75p, from 6.5p. ABP shares, which had risen by about 20 per cent since mid-December, fell 17½p to 301p yesterday.

The company, which was formerly state owned, played down fears that it might be affected by the Labour Party's proposed windfall tax on privatised utilities. Charles Orange, finance director, said: "We don't think we're liable. We are not a monopoly and we are not a utility, so we should not be included."

Sir Keith Stuart is seeking to achieve additional expansion of the business

British on Australian airports shortlist

From Rachel Bridge
in Sydney

THE three British contenders bidding for Australia's airports have made it through to the final stage of the privatisation process, it emerged yesterday.

BAA, the UK airport operator, National Express, the coach operator, and Manchester airport, which are each heading up separate consortia with Australian partners, have all been shortlisted to bid for Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth airports, the first three to be sold in the Government's A$5 billion privatisation programme.

Interest from British companies in the sell-off has prompted analysts in Australia to more than double their initial estimates of how much the sale is likely to raise. Brisbane and Melbourne are now expected to carry price tags of up to A$1.4 billion (about £700 million) each with Perth expected to raise up to A$450 million. All airports are being sold separately, with the winner of either Brisbane or Melbourne limited to owning only 15 per cent of the other.

John Fahey, the Finance Minister, said six of the original nine groups had made it through to the final stage after being judged against a range of criteria, including their development plans for the airport and their contribution to regional development. The bidders now have the option of revising their original bids for the airports — which are being offered as 50-year leases with the option of a further 49 years — by mid-April. The Government will announce the winners in June.

Australia's remaining airports are set to be sold off in batches over the next year, although Sydney airport is unlikely to come up for sale until next century because of an ongoing political row over aircraft noise.

Women stay jobless for shorter time than men

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

WOMEN are unemployed for a shorter time than men, new Government figures show today. It may explain why unemployment among women is so much lower than for men.

Currently, the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for women is 3.5 per cent, with 430,000 out of work, while for men it is 8.8 per cent, or almost 1.4 million.

During the recession of the early 1990s, the female unemployment rate rose less sharply than for men, and women's unemployment is now back below its 1990 figure, while male unemployment — though falling — is still well above its 1990 level.

An analysis published by the Government suggests that one of the main reasons why female unemployment is lower than that for men is that females remain unemployed for shorter periods.

Using internationally accepted data from the Labour Force Survey, the Office for National Statistics says that 34 per cent of all unemployed women have been out of work and looking for a job for less than three months, compared with 22 per cent of men. At the same time, 45 per cent of all unemployed men have been out of work and looking for a job for more than a year, compared with only 28 per cent of unemployed women.

The figures may reflect employer preferences for hiring women, often at lower pay rates than men, and that many of the jobs on offer — often part-time and temporary — are frequently favoured by women.

The study of women's job and unemployment patterns, published in the latest *Labour Market Trends*, shows that compared with ten years ago there are now 1.3 million more women in work, with 700,000 of the increase in part-time jobs. Women are now in the majority in a range of industries, including health, education, hotels and restaurants, retailing and clothing manufacture.

☐ Companies are not investing in training because of its cost, time and the view that it is a waste, according to a survey of personnel managers. In a study of more than 200 organisations, the Institute of Personnel and Development says that 56 per cent of those surveyed do not see training as a priority, with a third feeling that trained people will leave, while almost half believe it is easier to recruit employees who already have the necessary skills rather than train them themselves.

Workers at Peugeot vote for action

EMPLOYEES at Peugeot, the car manufacturer, have voted heavily in favour of industrial action, including a strike, in a dispute over pay and conditions.

Members of the Transport and General Workers' Union and Amalgamated Engineering (TGWU) and Electrical Union at the French-owned company backed a strike by 1,721 votes to 363 and action short of a strike by 1,848 to 243.

The unions said Peugot wanted unilaterally to bring in longer shifts, earlier starts and later finishing times.

The TGWU said the industrial relations climate had also been soured by Peugeot's refusal to talk seriously about pay.

SIEMENS
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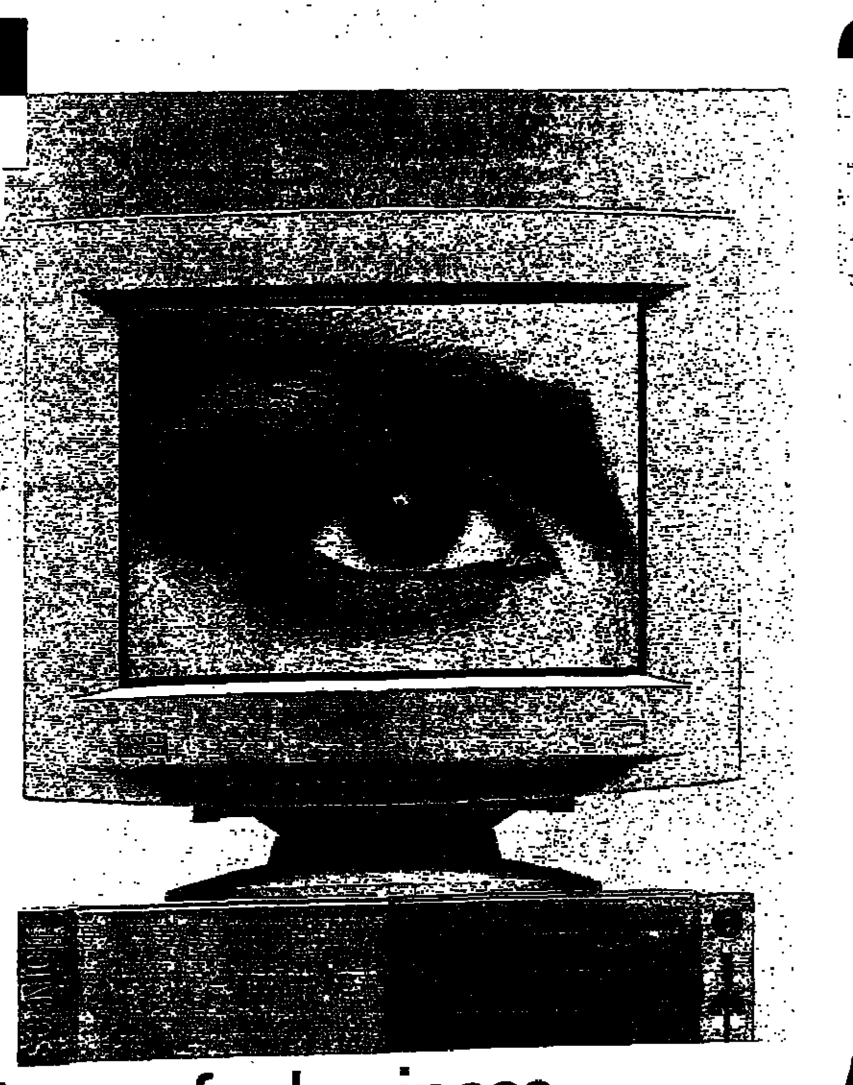

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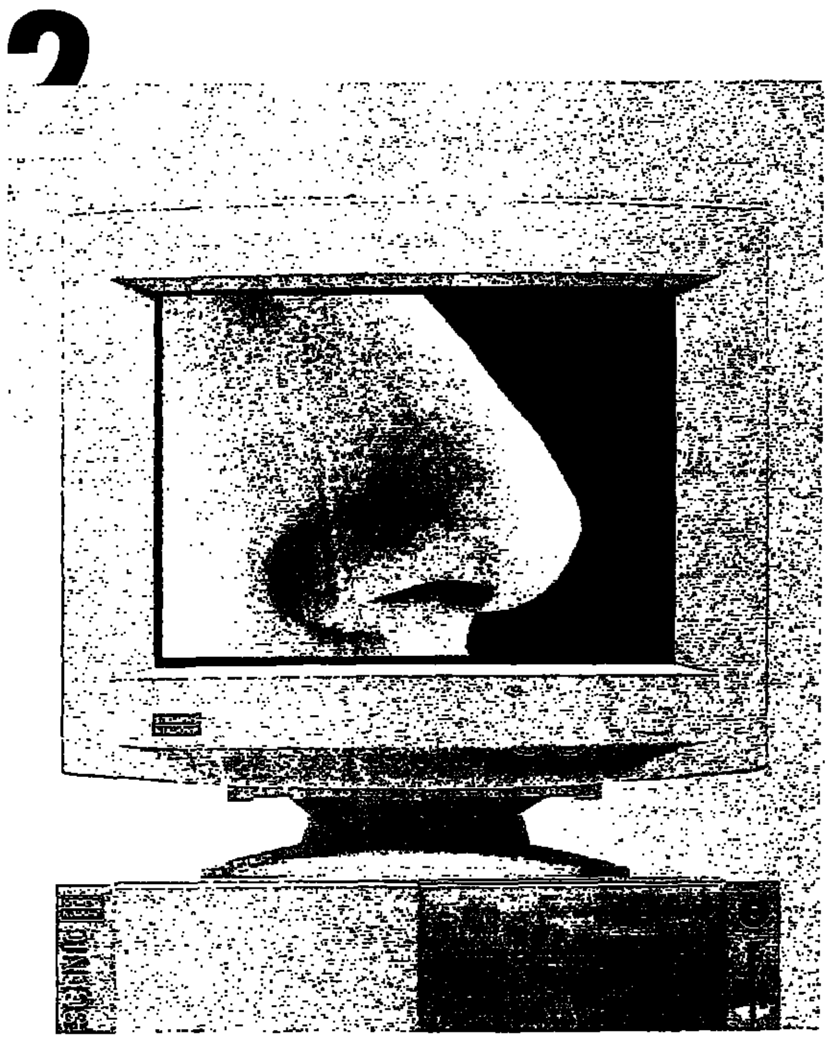

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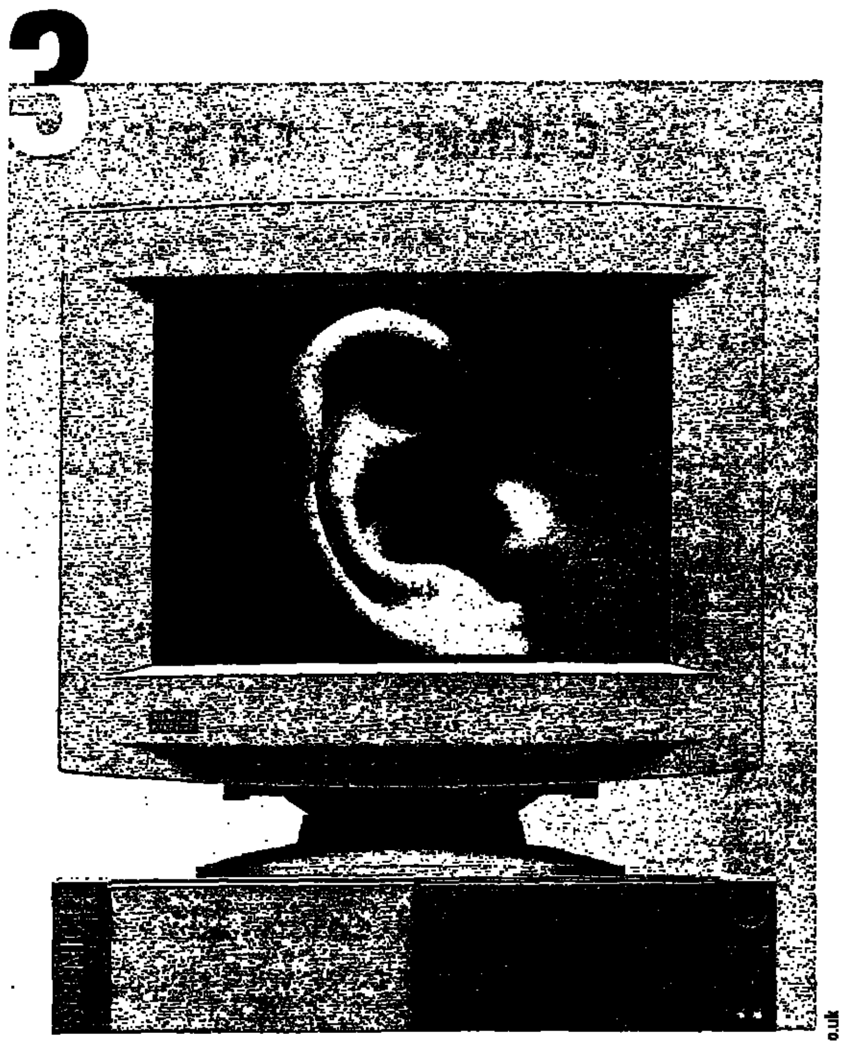

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Peter Langard on proposed changes to audit exemption regulations

Charities need special treatment

On January 7, the Department of Trade and Industry published proposals to raise the audit threshold for small companies. The stated aim of the Government was to help small firms by reducing accounting burdens — in this case the statutory requirement for any form of external scrutiny for companies with turnover up to £350,000.

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) has serious misgivings about the proposals, which it has expressed in a formal response to the DTI. It is also worried about the impact of any deregulation on charities.

Apart from a few sectors, such as financial services and banking, the Companies Act 1985 makes no distinction between different activities undertaken by companies. Charitable companies are not listed by the Act as ineligible for small companies exemptions and must, therefore, be covered by specific provisions in subsequent regulations.

There are no such provisions in the proposed amendments to the audit exemption regulations, which means that charitable companies with gross income up to £350,000 will not have to submit their accounts to any form of external review.

I understand that the DTI is unwilling to make any special provision for charities in the framework of company law. I can see no justification for this position apart from administrative convenience. It is illogical for legislation to distinguish between different types of commercial undertaking but not to recognise any difference between profit-orientated businesses and non-profit organisations that rely on grants and donations.

As a practitioner, I see a very big difference between the charities that I serve as auditor or trustee and the trading concerns that form the bulk of my client base. If commercial companies fall victim to fraud or mismanagement, the losers tend to be the proprietors or similar commercial organisations.

If charities are mismanaged, or their funds fraudulently diverted, the losers are the donors and the charities' beneficiaries. The public trust can also be damaged.

Charities should be given special consideration as public interest entities for a number of reasons. They receive donations from members of the public, money given on trust in the belief that it will be spent on a worthy cause. Charities are also given grants and loans from public funds. They benefit indirectly from the public purse in that they are granted favourable tax treatment. The public interest alone requires charities to be properly accountable for the money entrusted to them, irrespective of their constitution.

ACCA is concerned that the basic principle that all charities should be treated the same has been overlooked. If the audit exemption proposals are incorporated into regulations in their current form, there will be an imbalance between the legal requirements for charitable companies and charities that are not subject to specific legislation other than the Charities Act 1993. Charitable companies with income up to £350,000 will be totally exempt from audit, while other charities are still subject to independent examination of their accounts if their income is between £10,000 and £250,000, and to full audit if their income exceeds that upper limit.

I believe that some form of independent check is needed because charities may be more vulnerable to fraud, error or simply mismanagement than entities in many other sectors. In the first place, it is normal for charities to receive income that is unpredictable in terms of timing and amount and that is often in the form of cash. Smaller charities also tend to be run by part-time, volunteer staff whom it may be harder to control than paid employees.

There is now a serious risk that charity promoters who wish to avoid external scrutiny of their affairs will opt for incorporation under the Companies Act. More than 13,000 registered charities are already incorporated under the Companies Act, of which only 3,000 have income above the proposed audit threshold of £350,000 and which would, therefore, be subject to audit under the new proposals.

About 115 new charitable companies are being added to the register each month. All charities have to file accounts with the Charities Commission if their gross income or total expenditure exceeds £10,000 a year, but the commission does not have the authority or the resources to go behind the reported figures in the majority of cases.

ACCA is deeply concerned that the drive for deregulation of small businesses has obscured important considerations. One of these is the need to recognise charities as a special category in companies legislation. ACCA urges the Government to address this point now.

The author is president of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Peter Langard is worried about the impact of deregulation

B·A·T INDUSTRIES

Dividend up 8%

Preliminary results for the year to 31 December 1996

PRE-TAX PROFIT	£2,495m	+5%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	48.6p	+2%
BASE DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	26.0p	+8%
Additional FID payment	3.5p	

- After last year's 26 per cent increase in pre-tax profit, progress has been more measured in 1996. Pre-tax profit rose by 5 per cent, after an exceptionally high charge of £160 million in respect of US environmental claims reserving at Eagle Star. The underlying profit from continuing operations increased by 7 per cent.
- Tobacco made further progress, building on 1995's outstanding results, with profit up 7 per cent in local currency at £1,634 million.
- Financial services trading profit was £1,181 million, excluding the US environmental run-off claims, with excellent performances from Farmers and Allied Dunbar.
- "Looking forward, both our businesses have an excellent future. Our twin goals are to improve the long term growth prospects of our businesses and to increase shareholder value. We continue to evaluate business opportunities and issues of corporate structure that will enable us to meet them."

Lord Cairns, Chairman

Full financial statements for the year ended 31/12/96 will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and carry an unqualified audit report.
The 1996 Annual Report is being posted to shareholders at the end of March. Copies of the preliminary announcement may be obtained from the Company Secretary, B.A.T Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

A big error of judgment that is still unresolved

PERSONAL tragedies are always sad, even when they are instructive. And the worst part is always that, with the benefit of hindsight, everyone can see how they could have been avoided.

At a disciplinary hearing this week at the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the details of the Jim Waits saga were examined and at every point the same question was hanging in the air: "Why do people make such disastrous errors of judgment?".

The Waits affair goes back to last October when a fateful extraordinary meeting of the ACCA was held in the same room that this week saw the resulting disciplinary hearing. The matters at issue then were those raised in the long battle waged for many years by Prem Sikka in his efforts to reform the ACCA along what he sees as more democratic lines.

In particular, the motions at the meeting called for the ACCA's office-bearers to be elected by the whole membership rather than simply by the council, and for annual meetings to be held on Saturdays to enable more members to attend.

There was also a motion that: "In view of her poor performance, the ACCA chief executive's salary be halved." In other words, as often happens in squabbles of these kinds, the broader reformist issues spilt over into personal attacks. The meeting was broadly well behaved. There were some insults traded and there was some heckling. But both sides put their points of view. In any case, everyone knew the result was a foregone conclusion. Only a small proportion of the membership voted, and, on the main resolution, Professor Sikka was defeated by 6,840 to 1,989.

ROBERT BRUCE

A storm in a teacup you might think — one of those very British disputes that derive from a combination of a desire to let people have their say and dogged persistence in the face of overwhelming odds.

The tragedy did not start to unfold until the very last speech of the meeting. At that point everything was going more or less to form. Professor Sikka and his supporters had got across their point, but the strength of opposition against them was overwhelming. Then Mr Waits, the ACCA vice-president, got up to give the closing speech. Wearing his vice-presidential insignia around his neck, as the disciplinary hearing this week made much of, he was to turn the whole meeting upside down.

Mr Waits is a mild character. He had been chief executive of Worcester and District Health Authority, but had taken early retirement to devote the next three years to his work as an office-bearer of the ACCA. A pleasant and challenging vista of public service and status stretched ahead. Then he started speaking and jaws started to drop around the room. He accused Professor Sikka of being anti-Semitic in asking for annual meetings to be held on Saturdays. He suggested that Professor Sikka's occasional use of university stationery when firing off a missive amounted to "academic sleaze". And then in what amounted to a misplaced sense of his own humour Mr Waits concluded by saying that Professor Sikka should go off and form a new accountancy body. It should be called the World Association of Non-Chartered Certified Accountants said Mr Waits, lingering on the tasteless acronym.

As the disciplinary hearing heard, "confusion followed". The votes were taken and half an hour later, after many worried conversations, Mr Waits told the meeting that he hadn't intended giving any offence and apologised if any had been taken. The next weekend, council members approached Mr Waits and he tendered his resignation as vice-president and council member. On November 4 he resigned. On November 7 Professor Sikka issued an official complaint, as did other members. On January 15 the investigations committee decided that there was a case to answer and referred the matter to the disciplinary committee. In the meantime, Mr Waits had misjudged the mood again. Instead of holding up his hands and going quietly, he started making complaints about procedure. Residual sorrow at his downfall within the ACCA turned to indignation.

By the time the disciplinary committee declared the point to be proved this week, the case's costs had risen to just over £3,000. And on the ground that Mr Waits's procedural wranglings had caused most of them, he will have to foot the bill. In view of his previous "exemplary work" he was simply admonished for unprofessional behaviour. Either an appeal or a resignation from the full ACCA will follow.

The question of how Mr Waits made such an enormous error of judgment is still unresolved. For the accountancy profession, the good to have come from it is that the disciplinary system, which a number of years ago would have glossed over the affair, has brought justice in a public and transparent form.

The downside is that it shows that some accountants have still not grappled with the responsibilities they have to their fellow members and, as Professor Sikka has persistently and annoyingly lectured them, to the world beyond their own profession.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bottom one-liner at ICAS dinner

ROBERT SMITH, president of Scots ICA and famed for vanquishing Nicola Horlick at Morgan Grenfell, brought the ICAS president's dinner to his home town of Glasgow for the first time last week. And sitting with him in the place of honour was John Barclay, to whom Smith had been apprenticed back in the 1960s. "Behind every apprentice who passes his exams", said Smith, "stands an astonished partner." Barclay came in handy later in the evening during a noisy discussion about property revaluations. The chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, Sir David Tweedie, was asked for a ruling. "I can see where your credit is," said Tweedie. "But where is your debit?" Barclay leant forward. "Nearest the window," he said, "nearest the window".

GOOD news from the Bristol-based firm of Norton Partners. The national debt is about to be paid off. The firm has come across an Inland Revenue self-assessment statement asking for £404,040,404,040,404.04 from a client. "That is just the first instalment," it points out. "The second, due in July, should take care of the national finances for the next millennium."

The first test

THE International Accounting Standards Committee is in deep trouble. Quite apart from its mad scramble to harmonise global standards, it has run short of tickets. The next board meeting is in Johannesburg and finishes just as the crucial one-day cricket international between South Africa and Australia is due to start. Desperate efforts to find 80 tickets for an already sold-out game are under way.

ROBERT BRUCE

هكذا من الاعلى

Equities claw back early losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
568	407½	Allied Domecq	445	+ 7½	6.6	13.4
625	477	Bulmer (HP)	620		2.7	18.5
131	63½	Burn Stewart	69		6.2	73.3
1005	615	Glenmorangie A	1005	+ 5	1.5	27.3
498	411	Grand Met	466	+ 8	4.3	16.0
483	424	Guinness	468	+ 6	4.1	14.5
380	315	Highland Dist	348		3.0	16.8
803	255½	Matthew Clark	322	+ ½	6.3	15.4
141	91½	Marydon W	107	− ½	5.4	14.4
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1850	− 12½	1.9	

BANKS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4705¼	2742¾	ABN-AMRO	4468¾	+ 16¼	2.6	18.3
811	528	Abbey Ntl	785	+ 5	4.4	13.2
455½	315	Allied Irish	433½	+ 4	4.2	..
409½	285	Aus New Z	380	+ 1½	5.0	..
7603¾	3843¾	Bank America	7137½	+ 46¼		
373½	227½	Bank Scotland	352	+ 2½	2.6	12.9
1236	683	Barclays	1108½	− 1½	3.6	71.2
631½	413	Br of Ireland	630	+ ½	3.4	14.0
7884¾	4031¼	Citicorp	7337½	+ 65¾	...	
1590¾	1268¾	Commerzbk	1590¾	+ 25	2.7	.
1350	608¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	671½		0.6	.
3412½	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	3262¾	− 37½	2.0	.
900	593½	Espirito Santo	900	+ 2½	3.8	12.6
1507	600½	Fuji Bank Y	710	− 8½	0.6	.
1593½	931	HSBC	1571½	− 1	3.3	13.4
1544	830	HSBC HK	1519	− 2½	3.4	12.9
600	385	Irish Perm	600		2.7	
534	394½	Lloyds TSB	526	+ 9½	3.1	16.5
819½	566	Nat Aust Bk	790½	+ 1¼	5.3	10.5
844½	605½	Nat West	742	+ 4½	4.9	11.1
632½	464	Ryl Bk Scot	598	+ 8½	3.9	13.2
893½	547	Stand Chart	873	− 14½	2.1	15.5
£174¼	£131½	Wells Fargo	£164¾		2.0	
374¾	284	Westpac	344¾	− 1¼	4.0	11.0

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	702	Bass	854	+ 2½	3.7	16.8
70	40	Brit for the Bar	64		3.4	17.5
205	161	Burtonwood Brw	188½		3.7	17.0
152	92	City Centre Rest	152	+ 3	1.8	28.6
744½	463	Compass Grp	715	− 27½	1.5	28.3
290½	190	Eldridge P 'A'	287½		2.9	17.6
540	413	Fullr Sm 'A'	480		2.4	16.0
636	545½	Greenalls Grp	560½		3.4	17.6
732½	567½	Greene King	732½	+ 6	2.7	18.0
285	164½	Grosvenor Invest	215½		3.5	20.8
385	204	Groupe Chez Ger	381½	...	1.3	27.5
357	276½	Hardy Hanso	293½		4.5	13.3
3475	2700	Heil J	2762½		3.6	14.9
76½	45	Ind Business	76½	+ 1	2.6	
356	298	Mansfield	356		2.2	16.4
353½	252	Merston Thmp	294½	− ½	3.2	11.0
659	524	Morland	600	+ 5	2.8	15.8
188½	118	My Kinda Town	188		2.0	16.4
72½	39½	Paramount	39½			
636	217	PizzaExpress	634	+ 10½	0.6	41.4
438	245	Ramsdens (HT)	402½		1.6	
378½	138½	Regent Inns	349	− 6	0.9	32.4
700	601	Scott & New	670	− 1	3.7	20.3
313	246	Vaux Group	283	− ½	4.7	13.5
1255	640	Wetherspoon JD	1157½	+ 10	1.0	25.8
819	672	Whitbread	800	+ 3	3.5	16.2
706½	578	Wolvrhmptn D	700	− 1½	3.0	15.4
477½	397	Yates Bros	477½		1.0	30.9
650	425	Young 'A'	620		3.1	24.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
467½	328	Electrocomps	423	+ 13	2.1	26.6
314	125½	Eurotherm Elect	301½		3.0	29.0
158	65	Eurodollar	136½	− 4	5.5	13.9
105	76	European Mtr	89½		7.4	9.1
375	217	Evans Halshaw	260		7.9	10.2
67	39½	Fife Indmx	50½		8.2	7.8
397½	239½	Finelist Grp A	385½	− 4	2.1	19.5
34½	16½	Gardiner	33½	+ ½	3.6	12.6
81	33½	Glencheweton	73		1.8	21.6
110	70½	Gowrings	106½	− 2	3.2	18.1
101	72	Hamlet	84½		7.9	8.8
292	216	Harris (Philip)	267½		4.2	16.0
317½	200½	Headlam	316	+ 6	2.3	26.2
200	132	Holders Tech	149		5.0	14.0
242½	153	ISA Intl	227½		1.6	
318	291	Inchcape	270	− ½	3.8	23.1
78	33	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
260	169	Kwik-Fit	230½	− 1	2.8	16.5
390	299	Lex Service	360	− 6	5.7	11.2
155	105	Lookers	109		9.7	6.9
17	10½	Malaya Grp	13		6.3	14.0
9½	5½	Middlesex	7½		1.3	11.4
47	31	[illegible]	39		0.8	
565	329	Nortan	292½	+ 1	4.3	6.4
174½	115	Northamptn	184		1.1	9.8
310½	201½	Parico	351½		3.0	.
404½	272	Pendragon	395		3.2	
212½	145	Perry Gp	211½	− 1	4.9	10.8
752½	480	Premier Farnell	493½	+ 11	2.9	19.2
190	135	Quicks Group	147½		5.5	11.1
348	185	REA	328	− 2	1.5	39.3
3	2	Renor	2½			
54	20	Ronson	23½		8.0	8.1
4½	2	Ross Gp	3			
56	25½	SEP Indl	27½	− ½	8.0	7.3
195	55	Saltire	57½	...	2.2	18.6
417½	246	Time Products	415½		3.3	17.0
301½	123	UMECO	244	− 1	2.5	17.5
352½	260½	Vardy (Reg)	334	+ 1½	2.6	14.6
650	325	WF Elect	615		2.7	22.2
58	25½	Wilshaw	34½		3.1	10.1
172½	75½	[illegible]	158½	− 1	2.1	18.5
154½	104	Young (H)	141½	− 4	3.7	12.2

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
420	288	Antofagasta	401	− 1½	1.6	15.6
387	283	Ascot Hldgs	314½		2.1	
1056	785	Brake Hld	831½	− 3½	2.9	19.0
340	229	BTR	252½	− 3	4.8	18.9
586	411	BAT	531	− 18½	6.4	11.1
147½	108	Bisby (J)	128½	− 2½	7.3	7.5
65	50½	Brierley Inv	59½		7.8	10.0
972	715	Charter	763	+ 15	4.6	10.9
328	205	Cookson	229½	− 1½	4.6	12.2
229½	141	Cosalt	211		5.8	10.2
312½	204	DCC	311½		2.8	12.4
141½	109½	Grampian Hdg	126½		6.2	13.0
172½	118½	Hanson Cvtd	136½	+ 5	8.2	13.4
509½	379½	Hutch Whamp	470½	− 10½	2.2	19.2
437½	352	Imperial Tobacco	415½	− 3½	6.0	8.3
563½	344½	Jardine Math	379	+ 1	4.1	
217½	116½	Lonrho	147	− ½	4.0	13.3
191	164	McLeod Russel	172		4.9	14.0
478	368	Powell Duffryn	423½	+ 1	7.4	16.8
146	97	Ropner	145	+ 3	7.1	12.3
232	153½	Staveley	177½		6.5	12.7
607	499½	Swire Pacific	540¾	− 8	2.4	19.7
359	268	TT Group	330		2.6	15.7
296½	232½	Tomkins	283½	− 1½	4.5	14.1
285	167½	Unitaref	210		8.7	
512½	365	Wardle Storeys	455	− 3	5.2	16.8
350½	254	Wassall	350	+ 4½	2.2	20.6
237	129½	Whitecroft	180		3.9	12.8
369½	294½	Williams Hldg	322	+ 2	5.6	14.4

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
84	30	Simon Eng	40		2.0	14.9
307	127½	Six Hundred	144½	− 3	4.1	2.8
833½	622	Smiths Ind	786½	+ 3	2.6	20.2
706½	593	Spirax-Sarco	645		2.7	18.0
324	263½	Sterling Ind	286		3.9	14.4
593½	456	TI	544½	+ 6½	3.1	19.4
124	92	Tinsley (E)	113½		6.5	11.8
121	72	Transtec	120	+ 1½	2.4	21.4
212½	140	Triplex Lloyd	193½		4.5	10.9
167½	137	Unicorn Intl	167½	...	4.1	14.9
82½	47½	Utd Inds	65	...	4.7	18.3
302	241	Vickers	271	...	3.2	16.7
14	8½	Villiers Grp	9½			
770	621	Vitec	639½	...	2.2	11.8
952	750	Vosper Thorny	930	− 9	3.3	15.8
436	293	Wagon Ind	325½		7.6	10.0
273½	203½	Weir	212½		4.5	13.2
275	228	Wellington Hdg	258½		3.8	15.9
58	25	Westbury	30½	+ ½	7.3	8.7
68½	36	Wescol	60½	+ 2	2.1	23.2
575	363	Whatman	532	− 3	2.9	21.8
122	42½	Widney	55	+ ½	8.0	16.6

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
151	108	Adwest	130½	− ½	7.6	18.0
295	180	Airflow Stream	195		5.1	8.4
753½	473	Avon Rubber	746½	− 1½	3.3	14.4
107	57½	BSG	104½	− 1	3.9	16.3
353	227½	Bostrom	257½		3.3	10.6
28	15	Boxstead	16½		7.6	38.7
707	431	First Tech	691½		1.7	20.5
1186	778	GKN	956½	− 4½	3.3	16.5
3800	2950	General Mtr	3287½		3.8	
609	487	Henlys	545		3.5	12.6
1975½	1312¾	Honda Motor	1975½	+ 21½	0.4	
502	357½	Laird	356½		4.3	10.9
262	172	LucasVarity	209	+ 2½	0.0	
158½	91	Mayflower	158½	+ ½	1.8	..
193	145	Syltone	172½		4.3	12.7
190½	120½	T & N	156½	− 3	4.9	
118	39½	Toad	40			
433	252½	Trinity Hldgs	329	+ 1½	3.2	16.7

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
506½	355	AB Food	480½	− ½	2.5	15.8
311½	233	Acatos & Hutch	301	+ 1	4.2	40.6
53	38½	Albert Fisher	42½		11.0	10.3
325	265	Banks (S C)	294		4.8	11.1
405	313	Barr (AG)	392½	+ 2	2.8	21.3
43	21	Bensons Crisps	40½		3.1	10.2
418½	342	Booker	344½		8.5	13.5
39	20½	Borthwick	27½	+ ½	5.9	34.8
507	167	CPL Aromas	207½	+ 1½	3.1	10.5
567	464	Cadbury-Schw	539	+ 19	4.1	14.2
98½	65	Canadian Pizza	97	+ 2	6.6	
348	298	Carrs Milling	319		4.1	10.3
112	66	Carghart	75	− ½	6.2	..

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Brit Fndrtrs Inc	84.69	90.10	- 0.05	4.44
Global Opps	105.70	112.50	+ 0.30	
Balanced Acc	67.04	71.32		2.43
Balanced Inc	62.59	66.59		2.43
Japan Acc	37.86	40.30	- 0.07	
Pac Basin Acc	410.80	437.10	+ 0.30	0.82
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	134.00	142.10†	- 0.40	6.69
High Inc Equity	198.30	212.10	+ 0.90	4.48
Worldwide Bond	269.60	285.90†	- 0.30	4.20
American Growth	430.80	460.80	+ 0.90	0.36
Asian Pacific	341.50	365.20	- 0.50	0.38
Assets & Earnings	325.70	348.30	+ 0.70	2.71
Euro Capital Acc	203.00	217.10	+ 0.70	0.73
Extra Inc	42.94	45.68†	+ 0.01	8.01
General	293.20	311.90†	+ 0.10	2.80
Global Opps	75.25	80.05	+ 0.26	0.50
Japan	89.60	95.83	- 0.43	
Managed Inc	49.71	52.88†	+ 0.08	4.25
Mastertrust	176.80	188.10		1.27
US Emerging Cos	191.10	203.30	+ 2.30	
Ethical	89.18	94.87	- 0.27	1.65
International	141.00	150.00		0.58
Dividend & Growth	73.13	77.80	+ 0.30	4.32
Global Gwth & Sec	74.77	79.94	- 0.03	2.53
Latin America	81.00	86.17	+ 0.28	0.45
Capital Reserve	147.90	149.00	+ 0.20	4.60
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	98.06	104.30	+ 0.10	2.28
Equity Income	137.70	146.40	+ 0.20	4.08
Extra Income	267.00	284.00	- 1.30	6.27
Smaller Cos	115.70	123.00		1.44
International	118.10	125.60	- 0.10	1.34
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2580.00	2681.00		.
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	64.75	67.20	+ 0.33	0.14
Emerging Mkts	80.01	83.33	- 0.34	0.04
European	163.10	169.60†	+ 0.50	
Extra Income #	51.61	54.31†	+ 0.16	5.99
Far East Emg Eco	133.00	138.50		0.45
Fixed Interest #	26.75	27.82†	+ 0.01	8.73
Fund Inv Tst #	170.30	178.70	+ 0.80	9.29
Japan	156.30	162.40	- 0.30	
Latin American	68.37	72.17	- 0.24	0.67
Pacific	82.27	86.37	- 0.03	0.30
Property Share	82.55	86.67	+ 0.02	2.03
UK Emerging Cos	74.12	80.11	+ 0.06	1.20
UK Growth	60.19	62.66	+ 0.06	1.67
Abtr World Port #	85.96	89.88	+ 0.06	2.80
Ethical	82.86	86.18	+ 0.07	2.05
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.34	50.39†	+ 0.06	7.36
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 256 5868				
Aeradio Property #	99.17	105.50†		5.38
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 01452 305 958				
Amity Income	98.51	104.52†	- 0.20	1.94
Income Builder Inc	87.12	92.68	+ 0.25	3.86
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	311.60	333.10	+ 0.40	2.79
Capital	559.50	598.00	+ 1.30	1.05
Balanced	901.30	963.40	+ 0.60	2.53
Accumulator	1745.00	1865.00	+ 3.00	1.67
Income Trusts				
American Income	71.37	76.05†	+ 0.40	2.10
High Income	495.20	529.30†	+ 0.70	4.03
Equity Income	280.00	299.30	+ 0.70	3.71
High Yield	303.90	324.80	+ 0.60	3.70
Govt Securities	35.66	37.65†	- 0.15	5.90
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	248.20	264.80	+ 3.40	0.04
European Growth	61.13	65.27†	+ 0.62	0.06
International	195.60	209.90†	+ 0.70	0.11
Japan	159.46	170.30	+ 0.20	
Pacific	405.70	433.60	+ 0.30	
Secs of America	652.40	694.60	- 6.40	0.11
Wwide Asset Val	58.37	62.39†	+ 0.12	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	702.10	750.50	+ 0.40	1.82
Cons & Gilt	54.21	57.95†	+ 0.25	3.66
Smaller Cos	224.10	239.50	+ 0.30	0.95
2nd Smaller Cos	212.70	227.30†	+ 0.40	0.81
Recovery	182.70	195.30	+ 0.30	1.45
Met Min & Cmdty	170.00	181.70	- 0.20	0.17
Ovses Earnings	461.00	492.80†	+ 0.40	0.98
Technology	223.00	238.30	+ 2.30	
UK Special Sits	642.20	686.50†	+ 1.30	0.91
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01293 526 911				
Concord Ord Pens	125.30	130.10		
Foundtn Pens Penc	74.04	76.92		
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 600 0033				
Capital	93.43	99.39	- 0.44	0.76
International	71.58	76.15	- 0.18	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD 0131 222 4242				
America	371.00	395.40	+ 1.20	
Bond	121.90	128.30	- 0.20	6.36
Brit Smlr Cos	122.10	129.90	- 0.30	1.71
Conv & Gen #	70.88	75.40†	- 0.12	5.12
Europe	306.20	325.20	+ 2.30	0.10
Euro Smlr Cos	129.50	137.60	+ 0.70	0.30
Income Gwth	400.00	425.50†	- 2.40	4.39
Japan	267.00	283.80	- 1.20	
Latin American	101.10	107.50		0.60
Pacific	121.00	128.70	- 0.60	0.50
UK Smlr Cos	60.95	64.84	- 0.12	1.22
Japan Fd	522.80	538.90†	- 0.80	
Mngd Fd	215.60	228.90	+ 0.30	2.62
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD 0171 489 8673				
Brit & Ovsas	409.90	433.50		0.83
Capital Gwth	141.20	149.30		2.87
Wwide Opps	242.60	256.60		0.84
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD 0181 522 4000				
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	465.60	495.30	+ 1.30	1.97
European Bd Inc	98.80	102.30†	+ 0.10	5.91
Exempt	91.57	97.41	+ 0.31	2.46
500	535.70	576.00†	+ 0.30	1.97
General	355.50	378.20	+ 1.30	2.03
Property	255.50	274.20		4.89
Trustee	248.40	264.30	+ 0.60	2.15
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.80	100.80	+ 0.10	5.71
Distribution #	119.10	119.70	+ 0.10	5.89
Extra Income #	151.00	161.10	+ 0.40	4.33
Gilt & Fxd Int	60.25	62.11†	+ 0.06	7.57
Income #	636.10	678.50†	+ 2.60	4.39
Income Builder #	73.39	78.15†	+ 0.34	5.04
Intl Income	76.48	81.36	+ 0.03	1.94
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	155.50	165.40†	+ 0.50	1.75
FTSE 100	110.90	117.80	+ 0.30	2.44
Leisure	188.40	201.00	+ 0.40	1.06
Recovery	541.60	577.70	+ 2.10	2.14
Smllr Cos Inc	63.29	67.51	- 0.07	2.05
Special Sits	447.80	476.40	+ 2.70	1.75
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	195.10	206.50	- 1.00	0.26
F East Gwth Acc	308.50	328.10	- 0.80	0.10
Far East Gwth	183.00	194.70	- 0.40	0.10
Euro Gwth Inc	205.20	217.10	+ 0.90	0.50
-do- Accum	223.20	236.20	+ 1.00	0.50
Japan	113.30	119.90†	- 1.00	
-do- Accum	114.60	121.30	- 1.00	
Japan Spec Sits	54.14	57.35	- 0.32	
Worldwide	205.20	217.90	+ 0.10	0.48
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 214 1004				
American Growth	148.10	156.50	- 0.70	
Amer Smlr Cos	149.00	159.50	+ 1.60	
Convertibles	62.59	66.74	+ 0.21	4.40
Eastern	306.40	328.30	- 0.40	0.30
Equity Income #	108.70	116.20†	+ 0.40	4.10
European Growth	400.20	425.00	+ 0.40	0.80
Europe	405.10	431.30	+ 2.20	0.60
German Growth	94.57	100.10	+ 1.00	0.50
Global Bond	71.69	75.42†	+ 0.11	6.20
Global Growth	150.90	160.20	- 0.20	0.40
Japan Growth	161.50	171.50	- 1.60	
Japan Sunrise	117.20	124.20	- 0.40	
Korea Trust	48.37	52.32	- 0.21	
Portfolio	157.70	168.30†	+ 0.10	2.00
-do- Accum	300.70	321.20	+ 0.30	2.00
UK Growth	118.60	127.10	+ 0.10	3.00
UK Smaller Cos	109.30	118.50		1.90
Select Managers	93.78	100.50	+ 0.10	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD 0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	93.16	99.11†		
Special Oppor Inc	67.76	72.08†		
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD 0141 222 6020				
Balanced Growth	160.73	170.09	+ 2.76	1.29
-do- Accum	187.10	197.98	+ 3.22	1.29
Smaller Cos	176.92	187.22	+ 0.50	0.48
Higher Yield #	61.82	65.41	+ 0.31	3.89
American Gth Inc	114.03	120.67†	+ 2.03	
European Growth	179.08	189.50†	+ 2.43	0.03
-do- Accum	182.86	193.50	+ 2.48	0.03
Mngd Ptflo Inc	57.96	61.31	+ 0.23	1.20
-do- Accum	60.14	63.62	+ 0.24	1.20
Int Spec Opps	184.72	195.47	+ 2.04	
Pacific Gth	163.75	173.28	+ 0.20	
UK General #	107.92	114.20	+ 1.74	2.86
-do- Accum #	117.11	123.92	+ 1.89	2.86
Japan	45.99	48.66†	- 0.23	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	103.38	107.03†	+ 0.13	8.09
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	64.27	65.09†	- 0.01	6.61
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0161 837 5060				
Environ	201.00	211.60	+ 0.40	1.73
UK Growth	229.70	241.20†	+ 1.00	2.11
UK Income	162.60	170.70	+ 0.30	4.05
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD 01707 622 100				
Can Gen Dist	248.80	263.70†	- 0.40	1.50
-do- Income Dist	137.40	145.60	+ 0.10	3.43
-do- Accum	449.70	476.60	+ 0.40	3.43
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.36	43.47†	- 0.10	6.26
Growth Units	280.10	299.50		1.95
Bond	179.10	188.40†		6.50
Intl Growth	241.60	257.50	- 0.30	0.18
North American	278.90	296.30		0.08
Far East	325.30	347.80	+ 0.50	0.56
UK Smaller Cos	254.70	272.40	+ 0.30	1.05
European	101.90	108.20	- 0.10	0.47
Japanese Growth	36.57	38.77	- 0.18	
High Income	241.10	257.50	+ 0.29	3.95
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD 0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	237.60	251.70	+ 1.60	
European Inc	103.70	109.90	- 0.30	0.23
Smaller Cos (4-11)	119.60	127.50†		1.27
Growth	601.50	641.00†	+ 2.00	1.95
Income & Growth #	500.20	532.20†	- 1.20	3.50
-do- Accum #	766.90	815.90	- 1.90	3.50
Japan & Gen	53.25	56.59†	- 0.03	
Hallmark Gwth	£13.18	£13.73	+ 8.00	1.69
-do- Accum	£16.33	£17.02	+ 11.00	1.69
Special Sits	138.30	147.20	+ 0.60	1.93
High Yield	£16.24	£16.75	+ 3.00	3.94
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	108.31	115.53	+ 0.13	2.13
American Portfolio	134.01	142.25	+ 0.48	1.00
European Portfolio	150.68	160.21	+ 1.15	0.58
High Income	53.39	53.53†	- 0.17	7.10
Japanese Portfolio	54.52	57.82†	- 0.07	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	166.90	179.47	- 0.42	0.74
UK Equity	105.51	112.61	+ 0.06	3.18
UK Equity & Bd	61.78	65.46	- 0.11	8.17
UK Smlr Cos	55.90	59.79†	- 0.02	1.57
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	823.99	836.45		4.09
Fxd Int Sec	161.95	162.59	.	6.80
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 7815				
Investment Inc	813.88	825.98		4.16
Investment Acc	£37.98	£38.56		
Fixed Int Inc	130.61	131.13	..	6.85
Fixed Int Acc	243.30	244.28		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Bucknan Intl	88.64	93.75	- 1.13	5.34
Beck Bio-Tech	47.82	52.00		..
Acorn Ethical Tst	192.92	202.58		0.42
City Fin Assets	83.54	87.72		1.76
City Fin Intl	91.56	96.15	+ 0.29	0.13
Friars Hse Cap	327.60	348.51		2.28
Buckley Wrld Gth	143.27	151.87†	- 0.75	.
J Std Inc/Gth Inc	61.08	64.14		3.24
Shaw Utilities	65.70	68.05	+ 0.16	6.51
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admn. 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.85	63.50†	+ 0.24	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0345 772 233				
American Gwth	84.22	89.60	+ 0.66	.
Dragon Growth	75.14	80.36	+ 0.12	0.28
Equity High Inc	98.64	105.87†	+ 0.15	3.59
-do- Accum	144.67	154.91	+ 0.22	3.59
Extra Income Inc	27.50	28.96	+ 0.03	6.79
Extra Income Acc	30.70	32.33	+ 0.03	6.79
European Gwth	68.03	72.18	+ 0.29	0.36
Evergreen	31.97	34.19	+ 0.08	
General Equity	115.14	122.16	- 0.22	2.52
Japan Growth	38.24	40.68	- 0.20	
Pedigree Gwth	69.37	74.29	- 0.04	2.00
Ped Sm Cos Inc	41.13	44.23	- 0.08	1.05
-do- Accum	43.85	47.15	- 0.08	1.05
Retirement Inc #	30.12	32.08	+ 0.03	5.50
Special Sits	51.00	54.84	- 0.18	2.50
UK & Overseas	63.55	67.43	+ 0.15	0.57
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD 01634 898 000				
Balanced	74.44	77.54†	- 0.06	3.89
Capital	89.97	93.71†	- 0.06	2.44
High Income	53.76	55.99†	+ 0.04	6.45
Top 50	61.68	64.25†	- 0.06	2.38
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD 0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	211.33	220.16	+ 1.14	4.17
Long Gilt	45.32	47.18	- 0.25	5.84
Monthly Inc Plus	52.63	54.83	- 0.08	8.17
Preference Share	50.48	52.59	- 0.17	7.41
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	153.45	159.86	+ 0.22	5.34
Managed Fund	80.54	83.90	+ 0.02	2.64
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	57.58	59.99	+ 0.16	1.58
-do- Accum	68.05	70.89	+ 0.17	1.58
UK & General	107.16	111.64	- 0.08	2.70
-do- Accum	141.00	146.89	- 0.11	2.70
UK Growth	215.85	224.87	+ 0.08	1.25
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	228.71	238.26	+ 0.63	0.61
Far Eastern Gth	131.56	137.06	- 0.08	0.02
Global Bond	75.50	78.65	+ 0.14	6.30
Japan Growth	93.15	97.04	- 0.31	
North Amer Gth	263.83	274.85	+ 0.63	
Oriental Growth	87.99	91.67	- 0.02	0.25
Worldwide Growth	75.61	78.77	+ 0.04	.
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.07	93.07	+ 0.01	5.29
Homemaker Fund	94.86	100.93†	- 0.26	2.14
Quilter Fund	165.90	176.51†	+ 0.15	2.04
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	37.75	40.34†		3.92
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD 0800 526 358				
Growth	196.90	209.50	- 0.70	1.33
Income	77.00	81.92†	+ 0.07	4.25
European	80.53	85.67	+ 0.59	0.30
Recovery	198.20	210.90	- 0.30	2.32
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD 0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1054.70	1070.10		3.28
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD 01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	119.00	126.50	- 0.20	1.09
Income #	304.40	323.80	+ 0.40	4.33
-do- Accum #	812.60	864.40	+ 1.00	4.33
Smaller Cos	249.00	264.80	- 0.60	0.90
-do- Accum	310.20	330.00	- 0.70	0.90
Gth Portfolio	107.50	114.30†		1.25
High Inc Port #	88.81	94.47†	+ 0.09	4.02
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD 0171 470 1834				
Global Sm Cos	1710.40	1741.00†		
UK Small Cos	2350.10	2439.50		2.71
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS 0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	246.30	259.20		3.14
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD 01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	187.30	199.20	+ 0.60	1.82
UK High Inc Inc	194.60	207.00	+ 0.90	3.44
-do- Accum	266.70	283.70	+ 1.20	3.44
UK Pref & F I Inc	61.29	65.05	+ 0.15	5.69
Envrnmntl Opps	110.30	117.20	+ 0.20	0.85
UK Smlr Cos #	78.29	83.28†	+ 0.09	0.96
Extra Income Inc	51.12	54.36†	+ 0.01	6.29
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0345 090 526				
Convertibles #	23.63	25.11†	+ 0.11	5.58
Equity Income #	151.10	160.50†		3.74
European	68.93	72.95	+ 0.44	0.55
Financial	64.32	68.34	+ 0.02	1.32
Growth & Inc #	309.00	328.30†	- 0.20	2.67
High Dist #	192.10	204.10	+ 0.10	4.16
International	445.10	472.90	- 0.60	0.17
Int Cap Inc	112.40	120.00	+ 0.50	2.25
Latin American	36.50	38.78	+ 0.14	
Pacific	87.18	92.63	- 0.24	
Pref High Inc	23.38	24.84		7.25
Tokyo	182.00	192.70	- 0.50	
UK Smaller Cos	268.30	285.10	- 0.30	1.05
Dunedin Unit Trusts				
Jap Smllr Co	321.90	341.20	- 0.30	.
Nth Amer	468.30	496.30	+ 0.60	0.59
UK Inc & Gth	272.20	290.30	+ 0.90	2.55
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD 0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Dlgs	126.80	135.62	+ 0.40	1.03
Growth Acc	282.93	301.40	- 5.81	0.64
Income	631.81	675.73†	+ 4.78	5.89
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	237.40	252.60	.	0.92
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 01296 431 480				
European	98.81	104.01	+ 0.95	1.58
Ethical Tst	48.88	51.45	+ 0.35	0.89
Far Eastern	304.42	320.44	+ 0.02	1.44
High Income	153.88	161.98	+ 0.32	4.51
UK Index Trcking	56.16	59.12†	+ 0.12	2.93
Intl Growth	152.33	160.35	- 0.30	0.44
North American	162.98	171.56	+ 1.02	1.64
Pelican	156.72	164.97	+ 0.30	2.83
Smaller Cos	77.62	81.70	+ 0.11	2.79
Special Sits	99.93	105.19	+ 0.24	2.75
Tst of Inv Tsts	229.26	241.33†	+ 0.17	1.25
For Evermore see Laurence Keen				
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD 01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	106.83	114.56	+ 0.74	
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.43	60.19	+ 0.01	0.48
High Income #	41.88	44.88	+ 0.09	10.25
Warrant	48.90	53.15†		..
Zero Preference	45.90	48.70	+ 0.04	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD 01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	103.40	110.00	+ 0.20	2.30
United Charities	348.80	371.00	+ 0.30	2.00
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.60
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	26.96	27.95	+ 0.05	5.23
Strategic Inc	28.14	29.41†	+ 0.01	5.78
Income Funds				
High Income	28.07	29.45†	+ 0.02	5.23
Income Plus	142.50	151.60†	+ 0.40	3.95
European Income	53.66	57.02†	+ 0.04	2.38
UK Div Gth	34.45	36.64†	+ 0.06	2.28
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	64.38	68.68	+ 0.13	
American	359.40	382.50	+ 3.20	
Amer Spec Sits	190.70	203.80	+ 3.70	
Japan Smaller Cos	24.28	25.84†	- 0.07	
European	254.50	270.70	+ 0.60	0.50
European Opps	89.31	95.01	+ 0.42	0.02
Global Prv	35.14	37.37	+ 0.19	0.30
UK Growth	135.20	143.80	+ 0.20	1.36
Growth & Inc	196.90	209.40	+ 0.30	2.38
Intl PEP	52.42	55.74	+ 0.01	0.93
Japan Spec Sits	67.18	71.33†	- 0.38	
Japan	151.80	161.00	- 0.70	
Managed Intl	377.70	401.30†	- 0.40	0.47
Moneybuilder	69.71	74.13	+ 0.19	
Recovery	67.89	72.19	+ 0.07	1.49
South E Asia	195.90	208.90	- 0.60	0.92
Special Sits	808.10	859.30	- 0.40	0.51
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	118.11	118.11	+ 0.01	5.60
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	160.00	162.50†	- 0.30	1.47
Fnsbury Pd Inc #	102.20	103.10†	+ 0.20	6.02
Cap Ptolio	171.30	173.00	+ 0.60	1.28
General Opps	152.20	163.70	+ 0.50	3.24
Growth Inc	40.34	40.75	- 0.04	1.29
Private Portfolio	514.00	521.90†	- 2.10	1.15
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT Dlg 01277 690 386 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smllr Cos	157.60	167.60	+ 0.40	0.17
High Income	22.65	24.08†	+ 0.04	9.34
Japan Smll Cos	14.57	15.62	- 0.14	
US Smaller Cos	435.30	465.10	- 5.90	
For Foster & Braithwaite see Quilter				
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	83.24	88.54†	+ 1.12	
-do- Accum	83.24	88.54†	+ 1.12	
Amer Smll Cos	667.20	713.60	+ 11.20	
-do- Accum	681.60	729.00	+ 11.50	
Capital Tst	432.00	459.60	+ 0.50	1.09
-do- Accum	634.60	675.10	+ 0.40	1.09
Contl Smll Cos	64.01	68.50	+ 0.31	1.31
-do- Accum	68.10	72.88	+ 0.33	1.31
Convertible	148.30	157.80	+ 0.50	5.10
-do- Accum	328.60	349.60	+ 0.90	5.10
Emerging Markets	70.28	75.09	+ 0.03	0.30
-do- Accum	70.85	75.69	+ 0.03	0.30
European	162.10	172.90	- 0.30	0.60
-do- Accum	177.80	183.70	- 0.30	0.50
Extra Income	417.90	444.60†	- 1.70	4.45
-do- Accum	673.80	716.80†	- 2.80	4.45
Financial	196.60	209.20	+ 0.60	0.46
-do- Accum	209.00	227.30	+ 0.60	0.46
Gilt Trust	64.79	66.80	- 0.03	6.65
-do- Accum	100.80	103.90		6.65
Health Fund Inc	280.70	299.40	+ 1.60	

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■ FILM 1

Tom Cruise is all heart as a scarcely credible sports agent in *Jerry Maguire*

■ FILM 2

Pretensions and a starry cast — but a routine thriller format constrains the new *Blood & Wine*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ FILM 3

Irma Vep is a bright and breezy film about film-making, made in four weeks by Olivier Assayas

■ FILM 4

... but *Swann* is a glum Canadian tale, fitfully lifted by Miranda Richardson and Brenda Fricker

Would you buy sincerity from him?

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** sees Tom Cruise widen his range and go for an Oscar in *Jerry Maguire*

Tom Cruise is such a master of the cocky grin, the slick patter and strutting walk that it comes as a shock to find that his new film, **Jerry Maguire**, invites us to examine his conscience. There he stands in the opening minutes, a successful sports PR agent with a powerful Los Angeles company, full of yuppie clones braying down phones, wondering if he has not become "another shark in a suit". To help to foster a people-friendly environment, Cruise proposes that the agency should reduce its client roster and care much more about those that remain. The sharks fire him.

Since this is movieland and not the real world, the effect is devastating. The man has to start from zero. Out of all his clients, only one, a truculent baseball player played in scene-stealing fashion by Cuba Gooding Jr, stays with him. He loses his fiancée. But all is not lost: he's still Tom Cruise, and the camera adores him. So, eventually, does Renée Zellweger, a pleasing newcomer to mainstream movies, cast as the agency accountant and single mother who braves the freelance world with Cruise and helps to reorientate his soul.

This is a long film, and not every minute is spent wisely. But, as in his last film, *Singles*, the writer and director Cameron Crowe knows enough about human behaviour to fill the broad sweep of his plot with telling moments. Gooding's bumptious and brazen Rod Tidwell exemplifies the worst aspects of the modern sports personality; but Crowe also shows him as a man with a vibrant family life, who can teach Cruise a lesson in commitment. Jonathan Lipnicki, as Zellweger's son, a six-year-old sprat with looming glasses and a beaming smile who just about avoids being too cute, also plays a part in Maguire's education.

In its sweetness and naivety, *Jerry Maguire* echoes the Hollywood fables that used to be the preserve of Frank Capra. Capra's persistent star was James Stewart, an icon of homely virtues and idealistic impulses. Cruise is scarcely his modern equivalent; and you can never shake off the feeling that no matter what hoops Crowe's script makes him jump through, he will always remain a smooth operator. By his own standards Cruise gives a good performance, with a wider range of emotions and expressions than usual, although, judged in the cold light of day, it hardly warrants an Oscar nomination for Best Actor.

"Things are going to turn around," Jack Nicholson tells his boozy wife Judy Davis in **Blood & Wine** after her credit card has been cancelled again. Experience tells us to doubt him: are those demonic eyes, that frazzled face, that weary voice the attributes of success? A wine merchant in Miami, he enlists Michael Caine's wheezing safecracker to liberate a diamond necklace from a wealthy client's safe. Then his wife runs off, unwittingly taking the necklace; their discovery by his stepson (Stephen Dorff) prompts one accidental death and numerous mashed limbs.

But why I am telling you all this? The director, Bob Rafelson, certainly pays the story little attention. What matters to him is the texture of scenes and the light they shine on tortured relationships. Nicholson feeling a corpse for his booty, or tossing a cafeteria tray to the floor: these are the moments that count. Caine provides his share too, as the English expatriate who can still pack a punch while dying of emphysema.

But, for all the tension Rafelson works into isolated scenes, he is scarcely justified in regarding *Blood & Wine* as a partner to *Five Easy Pieces* and *The King of Marvin Gardens* in a trilogy about dysfunctional families. Those adventurous films of the early 1970s were made, both with Nicholson, when mainstream American cinema took risks. This is a film of the timid late 1990s, its pretensions reined in by the kind of plot you expect in a TV thriller.

There is a further difference. Back then, Nicholson was a fresh, explosive talent. Now he springs fewer surprises: we have seen that pained brow and those leering eyes too often before. *Blood & Wine* passes muster, but it can hardly be called a potent brew.

That description belongs instead to **Irma Vep**, a free-wheeling low-budget film from a French director, Olivier Assayas, new to Britain. Like many of his predecessors, he served as critic for *Cahiers du Cinema*, and cinema buffs form an obvious audience for this playful and poetic tale about a Hong Kong star bemused by her role as the cat-like criminal Irma Vep in a remake of the silent French serial, *Les Vampires*.

For the central role, Assayas secured the genuine Hong Kong article, Maggie Cheung. Much of the film's charm comes from her innocent response to the hurly-burly created by the remake's burnt-out director (Jean-Paul Léaud) and its lesbian costumier. Written in ten days, shot in four weeks, *Irma Vep* has a wonderful, breezy spirit, and resonates long after more well-tailored films have faded.

Films, for instance, like **Swann**, directed by Anna Benson Gyles, a doleful Canadian-British co-production that trudges through an unprofitable tale about an Ontario librarian and a Chicago writer drawn together by the legacy of a local poet murdered by her husband.

Brenda Fricker and Miranda Richardson make what hay they can with their characters, contrastingly dressed in dowdy dresses and chic black leather. But it is hard to care about their little spats, or the weak satire of academia, or the mystery surrounding the title character, Mary Swann, described as "a new Emily Dickinson". I think I'll stick with the old one.

Normal Life gives an audience a rough ride for a different reason. John McNaughton's film remorselessly follows the downward path of a rookie policeman (Luke Perry) and an unstable wife who loves astronomy and craves excitement. "Black holes are intense," Ashley Judd cries in an unnerving performance. So is the film, which pushes us into our own black hole with two characters spiralling out of control. Striking, but not very edifying.

Finally, a brief word about the Australian Film Festival, which runs for one week at the Barbican. Rarities to look for include *Love Serenade*, the quirky tale of two sisters vying for a washed-up DJ; the cinematic jigsaw *What I Have Written*; and Rolf de Heer's *The Quiet Room*, a moving examination of a collapsing marriage.

Jerry Maguire
Empire, 15, 138 mins
Tom Cruise gets a conscience

Blood & Wine
Odeon Haymarket
15, 103 mins
Seedy doings with Jack Nicholson

Irma Vep
ICA Cinema, 96 mins
Playful and poetic French delight

Swann
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, 15, 95 mins
Glum drama from Canada

Normal Life
National Film Theatre, 18, 102 mins
Gruelling trek along life's downward path

Tom Cruise in *Jerry Maguire*, a film which, in its sweetness and naivety, echoes the Hollywood fables that used to be the preserve of Frank Capra

SNAP VERDICT

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

☐ ***JERRY MAGUIRE***

Peter Dominic, 19: Sport films are a risky business, but this is far and away the top gun.

Damian Samuels, 19: A very funny triumph.

Tim Thornton, 21: The script is wonderful and Tom Cruise is predictably first-rate.

Robert Peter Hunter, 20: A wonderful script and some outstanding performances.

☐ ***BLOOD & WINE***

Peter: A good cast in an unstylish crime story.

Damian: Michael Caine proves he is one of the all-time screen icons.

Tim: Caine was the only thing that kept me awake.

Robert: A dark, moody film that doesn't quite fulfil all that it promises.

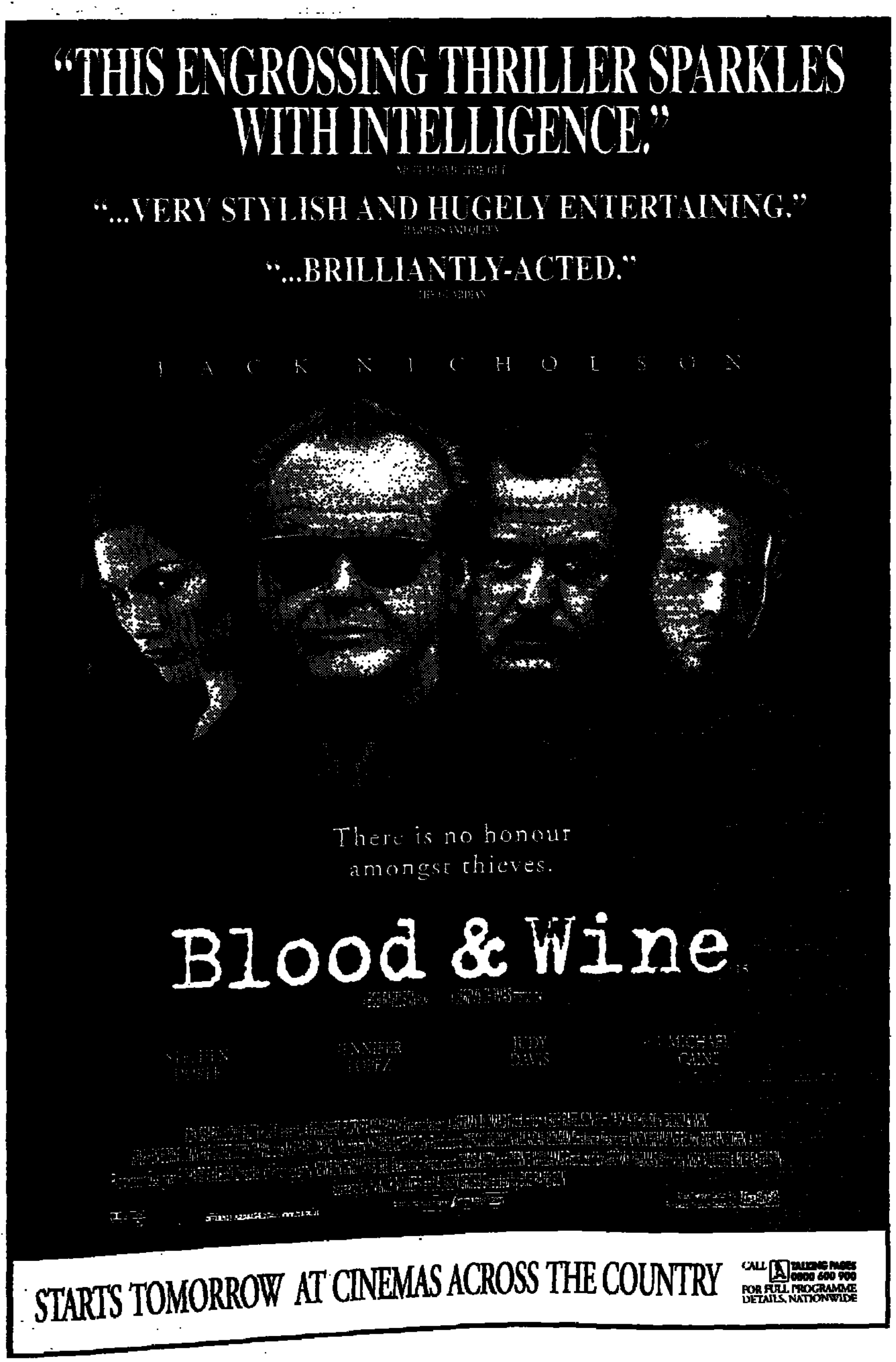
☐ ***NORMAL LIFE***

Peter: After a dull beginning, it gets better and better.

Damian: A brilliant portrayal of smalltown America, but better suited to TV.

Tim: A supremely sexy performance from Ashley Judd.

Robert: Bleak look at American life, where dreams end in nightmares.



"THIS ENGROSSING THRILLER SPARKLES WITH INTELLIGENCE."

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"...BRILLIANTLY-ACTED."

JACK NICHOLSON

There is no honour amongst thieves.

Blood & Wine

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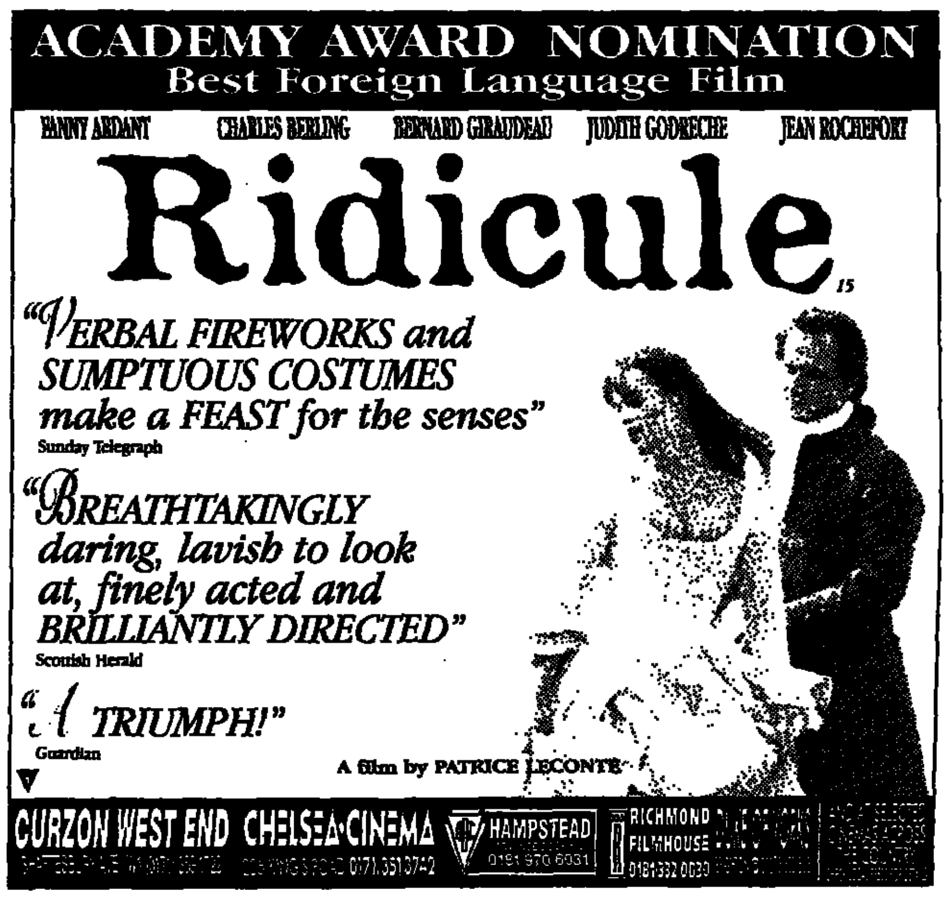

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Scottish Herald

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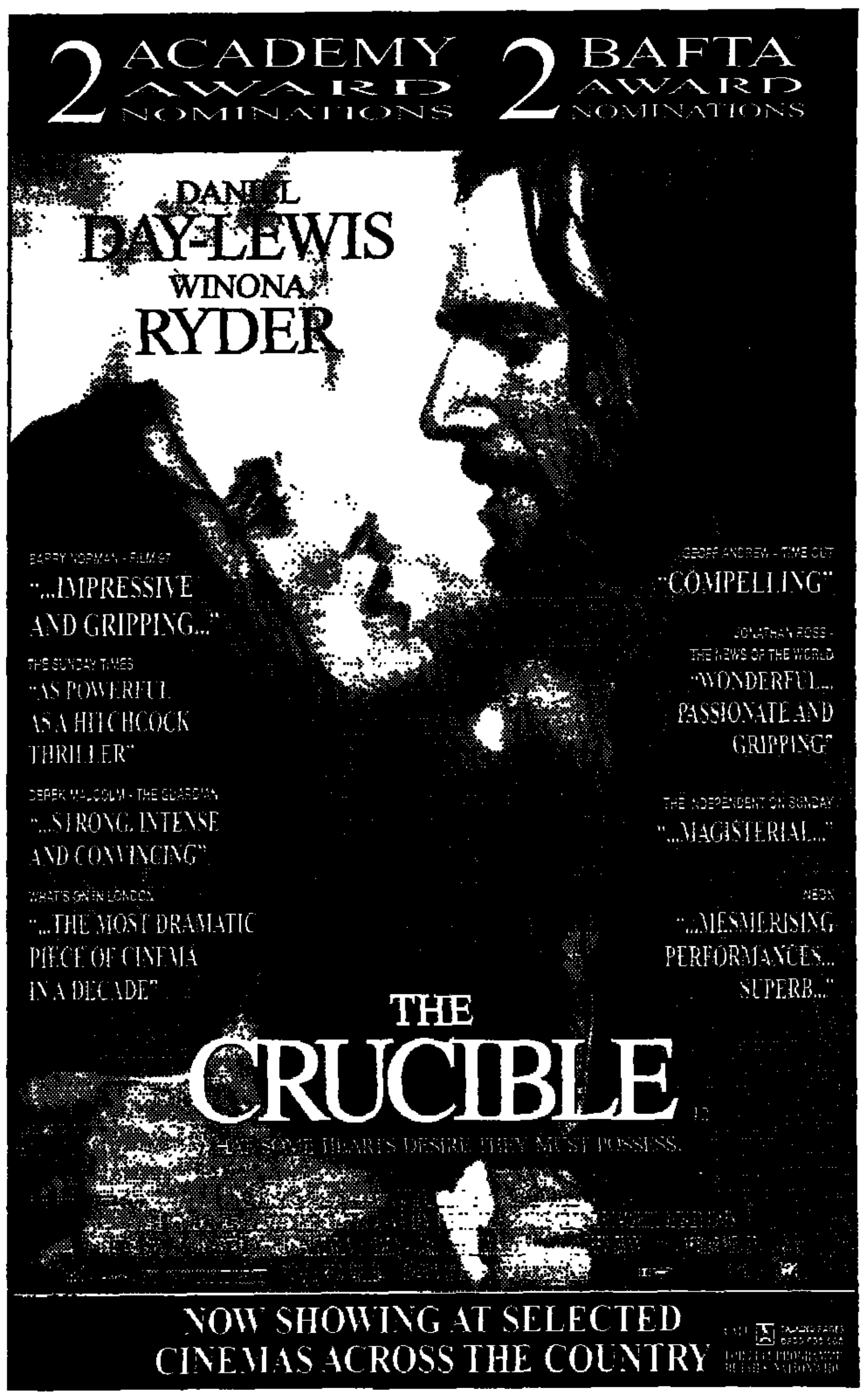

2 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS 2 BAFTA AWARD NOMINATIONS

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BARRY NORMAN - FILM 97 "...IMPRESSIVE AND GRIPPING..."

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DEREK MALCOLM - THE GUARDIAN "...STRONG, INTENSE AND CONVINCING"

WHAT'S ON IN LONDON "...THE MOST DRAMATIC PIECE OF CINEMA IN A DECADE"

GEOFF ANDREW - TIME OUT "COMPELLING"

JONATHAN ROSS - THE NEWS OF THE WORLD "WONDERFUL... PASSIONATE AND GRIPPING"

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY "...MAGISTERIAL..."

NEON "...MESMERISING PERFORMANCES... SUPERB..."

THE CRUCIBLE 12

WHAT SOME HEARTS DESIRE THEY MUST POSSESS.

NOW SHOWING AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

■ CHOICE 1

Maureen Lipman offers a wry look at life in her new *Live & Kidding*

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Duchess Theatre

■ CHOICE 2

Athol Fugard's *The Road to Mecca* is staged in Manchester

VENUE: Now in preview at the Royal Exchange

THE TIMES ARTS

■ NEW VIDEOS

Stealing Beauty, Bertolucci's charming fable of blossoming sexuality, comes to the small screen

■ NEW CDS

Name that tune! Theme music for *Dr Finlay* and other TV and radio classics is collected on disc

LONDON

BADINAGE Paul Carroll directs the period ensemble in a programme of Baroque concertos, including music by Vivaldi, Bach and Handel
Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight, 7.30pm

LIVE & KIDDING Maureen Lipman presents herself for a five-week season of musicology, humourology and many another ology
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075) Opens tonight, 7pm Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3pm Until April 5

MARHABA! Cairo Opera Ballet makes its British debut (tonight and tomorrow, 8pm) in a celebration of Egypt's rich and diverse contemporary culture *Marhaba!* includes a programme of modern and traditional works performed by a quartet from the Arabic Music Ensemble (Sat and Sun, 8pm), and screenings of Egyptian films, from 1986-1995, by prominent directors (March 10-12)
Riverside Studios Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2255).

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM The **Belgian National Orchestra** begins its tour, culminating in a visit to the North Wales Theatre, Llandudno on March 17 Today's programme (repeated tomorrow) includes Berlioz's *Corsaire Overture*.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto and a Wagner adaptation called *The Ring, An Orchestral Adventure*.
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 8pm Next in **Sheffield**, City Hall (0114-273 5295), tomorrow; **Halifax**, Victoria (01422 351158), Saturday

BRISTOL AND CAMBRIDGE: Catherine Bott, the Dufay Collective and Sequentia are among the artists taking part in the third **Medieval Music Festival** (today-Sun, running simultaneously in Jesus College Chapel, Cambridge, and St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol (today-Sun)
Medieval Music Festival tickets and information: Cambridge (01223 357851). Bristol (0117-923 0359)

LEEDS Andy De La Tour's look at *political* pretensions, **Landslide**, is set after a Labour victory when a new MP and her defeated rival meet at his country home With Jenna Russell, Deborah Norton, Christopher Ravenscroft Gwenda Hughes directs a co-production with Birmingham Rep.
Courtyard, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quarry Hill (0113-244 2111). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens March 11, 7.45pm Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed (March 19, April 2), 2pm, Sat (March 15), 3pm Until April 5.

MANCHESTER: Ann Mitchell, Helen Schlesinger and William Russell play artist, friend and pastor in **The Road to Mecca**, directed by Gregory Hersov Athol Fugard's play was inspired by the true story of Helen Martins whose house, transformed by sculpture and stained glass, is now one of South Africa's strangest national monuments
Royal Exchange, Upper Campfield Market (0161-833 9833). Previews begin tonight, 7 30pm. Opens March 11.

LONDON GALLERIES

Cadogan Contemporary: Sarah Butterfield (0171-581 5451) . . . **Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design**: Direction '97 — The College Exhibition (0171-514 7000) . . . **Coram**: Endless Night: Recent work by Jim Pavlidis (0171-404 2040) . . . **Curwen**. Angels of Georges Braque (0171-636 1459) . **Goethe-Institut**: Lovis Corinth and His Times (0171-411 3400) **Kapil Jariwala**: Alfred Wallis. Painter 1855-1942 (0171-437 2172) . . **National Theatre**: Snowdon on Stage (0171-928 2252) . **Portland** Nina Murdoch (0171-321 0422) **Serpentine**: Richard Deacon (Gallery Lawn) (0171-402 6075) . **V & A**: The Cutting Edge: Fifty Years of British Fashion (0171-938 8349/8441)

☐ **FASCINATING AIDA** Brief transfer for the threesome, singing of showbiz, impossible men and middle age Thirteen performances only.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5073) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3pm Until March 15

■ **GUYS AND DOLLS** Richard Eyre revives his famous production of the Frank Loesser musical Imelda Staunton recreates her role of Miss Adelaide With Harry Goodman, Clarke Peters and Joanna Riding
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Tue, Wed, Thurs, 2pm, Sat, 2pm

☐ **LUV** Revival of Murray Schisgal's long-running 1960s romantic comedy love troubles, life-is-awful troubles but a happy ending Neil Marcus directs
Jermyn Street, 16b Jermyn Street, SW1 (0171-287 2875) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 4pm Until March 15

◪ **ROMANCE, ROMANCE**. Musical double-bill by Barry Harman and Keith Herrmann, derived from a Schnitzler tale of love in old Vienna coupled with a modern version set on Long Island Directed by Steven Dexter Transfer from a sell-out run at the Bridewell
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

◪ **THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES**: Peter Bowles both touching and comic as Moliere's deluded hero Eric Sykes excellent as his ticker-fingered servant. Peter Hall directs
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 5pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **THE SEAL WIFE**: Attic Theatre Co celebrates its tenth year with Sue Glover's haunting play, part folk-tale, part contemporary love story. Directed by Jenny Lee, designed by Alison Darke, the team who helped to make Glover's *Bondagers* so memorable
Wimbledon Studio, 103 Broadway, SW19 (0181-540 0362) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm, mat Sat, 4pm, Until March 15.

■ **THE SLOW DRAG**: Kim Criswell and Nikki Slade in Carson Kreitzer's jazz play loosely based on the strange life of trumpeter Billy Tipton, a woman who masqueraded as a man in the 1930s in order to survive in the bands, Period music from a jazz quartet
Freedom, 60 Wardour Street, W1 (0171-734 0122) Tue-Thurs, 7pm; Fri and Sat, 7pm, 9.30pm Until March 15

■ **A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE**: Jessica Lange, Toby Stephens, Imogen Stubbs in adroit production by Peter Hall. Try to forget the film
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sat, 7 45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

■ **SWAGGERS** Revival of last year's award-winning frank, funny and real picture of London's underworld by Mike Mahoney Set above a shop dealing in *fake designer clothes*
BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223) Tue-Sat, 7 30pm; Sun, 5 30pm. Until March 9

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) ◪ **Cats** New London (0171-405 0072) ◪ **Grease** Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . . ◪ **Jolson** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . ☐ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) . ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . ☐ **Oliver!** Palladium (0171-494 5020) . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . ☐ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) . ◪ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ◪ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BOUND** (18): Thriller about two sultry lesbians and a pile of Mob money
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** (0181-315 4215) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **THE CRUCIBLE** (12) Weighty version of Arthur Miller's play about 17th-century witchcraft, with Winona Ryder. Daniel Day-Lewis and Paul Scofield
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **MARS ATTACKS!** (12) Tim Burton's silly and star-studded spoof of the alien invasion movie
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY** (12). Jane Campion's icily elegant adaptation of Henry James, with Nicole Kidman.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

CURRENT

FLIRT (15): Three related tales of the heart's affections from Hal Hartley
Everyman (0171-435 1525) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

HAMLET (PG): Lavish, literal-minded Shakespeare, staged with some panache by Kenneth Branagh With Derek Jacobi and Kate Winslet.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720)

◆ **IN LOVE AND WAR** (15): Romantic drama from Richard Attenborough, based on Ernest Hemingway's wartime fling with a Red Cross nurse. With Sandra Bullock and Chris O'Donnell
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **RANSOM** (15): Intermittently absorbing kidnap drama, with Mel Gibson, Rene Russo and Gary Sinise. Director, Ron Howard.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **SHINE** (12) Child prodigy pianist crumples under the strain. Uplifting, often funny treatment of a true story from Scott Hicks With Geoffrey Rush
Minema (0171-235 4225) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Mezzanine** ♿ (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

Ravishing in every sort of way

NEW ON VIDEO

Liv Tyler's beguiling mixture of innocence and sensuality captivates in Bernardo Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty*

■ STEALING BEAUTY
Fox Guild, 15, 1996

BERTOLUCCI returns to Italy after 15 years with a very enjoyable, intimate film about an American teenager's sexual flowering during one long dreamy summer in Tuscany. Liv Tyler galvanises with her mixture of innocence and sensuality; and the Tuscan hills look divine. Lightweight, certainly; flimsy, no. With Jeremy Irons and Sinead Cusack. A rental release.

■ THE MONKEES
Warner Music Vision, U, 1967

"HEY HEY, we're the Monkees!" And so they are: four clean-cut lads originally brought together for a frantic television series about a fictitious pop group. They can now be found reunited after 30 years, touring Britain. Most of the six episodes, available on two tapes, feature weak spoof comedy matched to canned laughter. The exception is *Monkees on Tour* in volume one, a behind-the-scenes documentary directed by Bob Rafelson, following the group in and around a concert in Phoenix, Arizona, during their first national tour.

■ PHENOMENON
Buena Vista, PG, 1996

BIFFED *unconscious by a fast-moving* light in the midnight sky, John Travolta's small-town mechanic becomes a genius and can learn Portuguese in 20 minutes. His chums grow wary; so does the new girl in town, Kyra Sedgwick. But the FBI becomes interested when he casually decodes secret messages. At first Jon Turtletaub's comic fantasy lollops along happily on the star's easy charm. Then mawkishness piles up and it becomes a dimwitted disease movie in disguise. Available to rent.

■ THE SPY IN BLACK
Carlton, U, 1939

THE first collaboration of Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger: a thoroughly entertaining First World War spy drama mostly set in the Orkneys, with Conrad Veidt as a naval captain trying to contact the local German agent. Veidt and the elegant Valerie Hobson make a splendid star team, and the teasing plot is supported by plenty of bizarre visual delights.

■ TYPICALLY BRITISH
Academy, E, 1995

DIRECTOR Stephen Frears, Alan Parker, and other industry colleagues muse over the highs and lows of British cinema, interspersed with well-chosen clips. The hesitant, unambitious nature of Britain's contribution to the British Film Institute's "Century of Cinema" series tells us much about national hang-ups. The companion programme on this tape, *Irish Cinema: Ourselves Alone?*, offers a revealing portrait of film-making in a country where foreigners have, until recently, always dominated.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: From Ambridge with love; a Janáček bargain; masterful *Wozzeck*

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ BRITISH LIGHT MUSIC CLASSICS, VOL 2
New London Orchestra/Corp
Hyperion CDA66968★★★ *£12.99*

IF YOU long for the good old days of *Dr Finlay's Casebook*, *Down Your Way* and *In Town Tonight*, this is the disc for you. Those familiar signature tunes — respectively Trevor Duncan's *March*, Haydn Wood's *The Horse Guards, Whitehall*, and Robert Farnon's *The Westminster Waltz* — are among the second collection of British Light Music Classics presented by Ronald Corp and the New London Orchestra.

Here you will find too those great survivors, *Sailing By* and the theme for *The Archers* (*Barwick Green* from Arthur Wood's *My Native Heath*), alongside other merry little numbers by various skilled exponents of the genre. The inclusion of pieces by Elgar and Benjamin Frankel is further evidence that "light music" and "serious" composers are not mutually exclusive.

Some pieces, for example the *Archers* and *Dr Finlay* signature tunes, sound rather different from their familiar versions, suggesting that there is room even here for interpretation of a modest sort.

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ JANACEK
Complete works for violin, cello and piano
Suk/Jedlickova/Fukacova
Carlton Classics
30366 00327★★★ £20.99

WELL, not *quite* complete — one or two pieces for violin and piano are missing — but this two-CD album, certainly the most complete recording yet released, is essential for the shelves of all who love Janáček, and required listening for those who do not — yet.

The first disc is all piano music. Bohumila Jedlickova plays *In the Mists*, four short pieces of uneasy, introspective melancholia from a period of great sadness and self-doubt in the composer's life. With her lean, understated playing, she uncovers a spiky unpredictability in this music. *On an overgrown path* is a set of tiny, flickering reminiscences — sounds from nature, voices, Moravian folk poetry. Understatement is of the essence here.

Janáček's *Fairy Tale* or *Pohadka* has been famously recorded by Steven Isserlis and Olli Mustonen, and their version takes some beating. But, again, these musicians give a totally convincing, big-boned performance. When it is preceded by Josef Suk's fiercely eloquent reading of the Sonata for Violin and Piano, and followed by still more wonderful piano pieces, this double album is worth serious consideration.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

OPERA

John Higgins

■ BERG
Wozzeck.
Meier/Grundheber/Berlin Staatskapelle/Barenboim
Teldec 0630-14108-2
(2 CDs)★★★ *£29.99*
Video 0630-16338-3 £15.99

FOR the past ten years Franz Grundheber has remained virtually unchallenged in the part of Wozzeck. He recorded it in live performance from Vienna with Abbado exactly a decade ago in an outstanding set. Now he is back, again direct from the stage, from Berlin with Barenboim.

Second time round, Grundheber's simple soldier sounds even more tragic. At times he sings as almost in a trance, trying to cocoon himself from the brutal world around. He even manages to invest beauty into the jagged edges of Berg's vocal line. So too does Waltraud Meier as the slut Marie. Her emotions may be raw as she lusts after the Drum Major (Mark Baker), but she injects real remorse into the Bible-reading scene with the one son she has.

True evil is confined to the Captain and the Doctor. Graham Clark and Günter von Kannen turn in top-class interpretations in these roles. The video version of Patrice Chereau's austere staging is needed though for the full flavour of Clark's psychopath.

The brass of the Berlin Staatskapelle excels in Berg's screech of rage at human cruelty.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

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هكذا من الاهالي

■ MUSICAL

Can Francesca Zambello make the Forties wit of *Lady in the Dark* work for theatre audiences today?

■ THEATRE 1

The transfer of *Romance, Romance* brings a wry continental look at love to the West End

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE 2

. . . while *The Positive Hour* is a bleak view of life at the sharp end for a social worker

■ OPERA

Covent Garden gives British singers a chance to dazzle in the new cast of *Così fan tutte*

Cheers for the home side

TO ITS great credit the Garden is using the second cast for the current *Così* to give young and mainly home-grown singers a chance to show their paces. When, if ever, did we have three Englishmen together at the Opera House as Ferrando, Guglielmo and Alfonso? It probably looked a bit of risk, but it turns out to be one well worth taking.

Timothy Robinson and William Dazeley slide easily into the laid-back mid 1990s Armani chic of Jonathan Miller's production. Mozart's two officers could be a couple of derivatives dealers as they arrogantly strike their fidelity bet with Alfonso. And when they return as louche "Albanians" there is a contemporary feel that they arrive fresh from a little pyramid selling.

Robinson, in his first major role for the company, shows a graceful and brightly focused tenor as Ferrando. *Tradito, schernito*, coming towards the end of a vocally taxing evening, found him short of stamina, but he recovered to make his conquest of Fiordiligi as eloquent as it was persuasive. William Dazeley made a last-minute appearance on opening night to replace an indisposed Bo Skovhus, as Rodney Milnes reported, and his Guglielmo is quite big enough for the Garden. David Wilson-Johnson's first Alfonso is disarmingly British, a manipulative old buffer given to outbursts of misogyny as he watches the kids play games he gave up years ago.

OPERA

Così fan tutte
Covent Garden

Leah-Marian Jones was the best of the women as a Dorabella who for once is blonde and fluffy as well as flirtatious. The "Heart Duet" with Guglielmo showed the advantage of having fresh young voices toying with one another.

The German soprano Melanie Diener made her house debut as Fiordiligi, despite an announcement of indisposition (unspecified). It could well have been a throat infection because her dark tones made her sound the mezzo in the cast. Understandably, *Per pietà* was taken very gingerly — and slowly — but she got through without mishap. Sandra Zeltzer's voice is not yet large enough for this house.

Dietfried Bernet was on much better terms with the orchestra than in *Don Giovanni* earlier this season. He could not have given his cast of debutants more understanding support.

JOHN HIGGINS

● *BBC2 is broadcasting* Così fan tutte *live on Saturday at 7pm*

MUSICAL: **Rodney Milnes** talks to Francesca Zambello about her new Kurt Weill production

Bold lines never out of fashion

The canniest devil's advocate would have a tough (and entertaining) time with Francesca Zambello — she has all the answers, and she believes them. But perhaps one such is needed to question her about her latest assignment here, Moss Hart's and Kurt Weill's *Lady in the Dark*.

She is known here mainly as an opera producer — the Olivier Award-winning *Khovanshchina* for ENO, a spectacular arena *Tosca* at Earls Court, and a *Billy Budd* at Covent Garden in which she dealt with the English class system as probably only an outsider could. But both at home in America and in Ireland she has worked extensively in the straight theatre, so this "musical play" is a neat engagement for her.

There are a number of "firsts" about *Lady*. It was Hart's first play detached from George S. Kaufman, with whom he had written a string of near-classics. It was Weill's first legitimate Broadway show, his previous musicals having been sort-of "serious", and its phenomenal success in 1941 — 550 performances on Broadway alone — won him the same sort of financial security *Salome* did Strauss. And Ira Gershwin was writing lyrics for the first time since the sudden death of his brother George.

> ❛ How far has feminism brought us since 1941? ❜

Everyone agrees that the Weill-Gershwin musical sequences are the work of genius, but what about Hart's play? Will it stand up today?

It's about Liza Elliott, a woman on the edge of a nervous breakdown. She's been the editor for ten years of the fashion magazine *Allure*, which was more or less given to her by her indecently rich and married sugar-daddy. She has a Beatrice-and-Benedick relationship with the advertising manager. Add a Hollywood film star in search of a mother substitute; and the news that sugar-daddy is getting a divorce, and Liza is off to the shrink. Hart had been in analysis for years, and had his own psychoanalyst write a preface to the published text.

The play moves between the magazine offices and the analyst's couch, and the music is confined to three extended fantasy or dream sequences. "The music is the inside of Liza's mind," Zambello says. "It's a sequence of four one-act plays and three one-act operas, and they go A-B-A-B-A-B-A. The music is the unconscious world, the spoken lines the conscious one, and at the end they come together in *My Ship*, a little song that marries those two worlds."

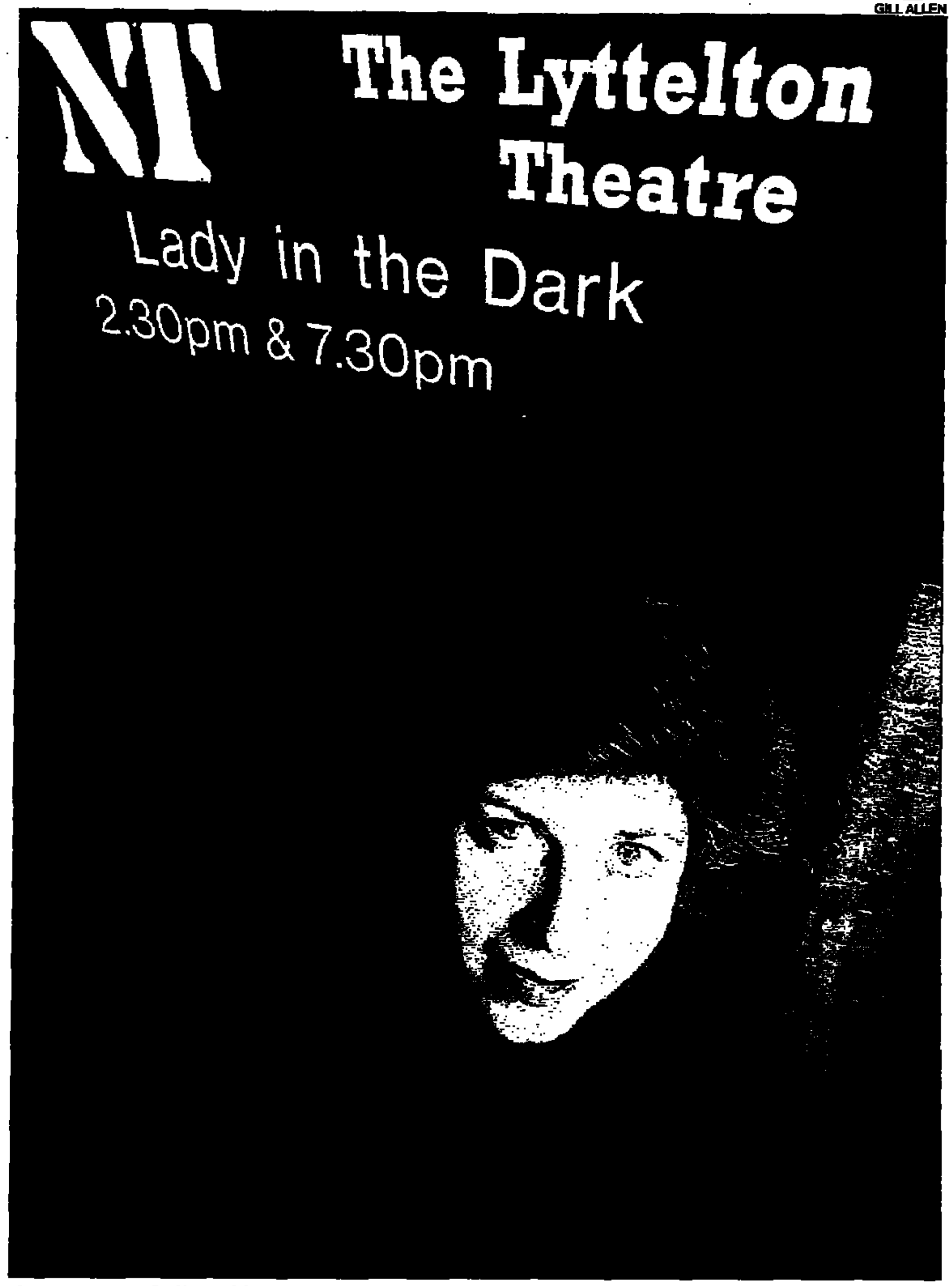
Part of the score's genius is the way the super-smart, Broadway-witty dream sequences dissolve into nightmares, with the opening phrase of *My Ship* woven into the musical fabric, so that when the song is finally heard in full, unlocking a childhood trauma, the audience's relief is almost as great as Liza's.

Yes, but in the context of Weill's American output, from the pacifist musical *Johnny Johnson* via *Street Scene* to *Lost in the Stars*, why are we supposed to care about this overprivileged, pampered woman? Zambello cites the movies of Woody Allen. "His people are the intellectual, elitist class of New York. You meet them, you say, 'OK, he's going through this midlife, menopausal male crisis and having an affair', and you think this isn't a story to care about, but when you watch the movie you're either hysterical with laughter or reduced to a puddle of tears. Fifty-six years ago, Moss Hart was doing the same thing."

Nor will Zambello countenance the idea of the subject-matter being dated. "It's absolutely contemporary. It's about a woman whose professional life and personal life are in crisis, and part of the reason is that she's at the top of her profession. That seems to be a constant trauma for today's woman at the top. How far has feminism brought us since 1941? Three steps forwards and six steps back. The ceiling has been raised, and turned into glass — women can only go so high."

Setting the action in the offices of a fashion magazine is, of course, significant. "In 1941 that was a world where women could be successful and empowered. One of the characters is based on Diana Vreeland, then fashion editor of *Harper's Bazaar*. Fashion was beginning to evolve as an industry, and Condé Nast brought more than just fashion to the masses. He made people in Iowa aware of Picasso."

GILL ALLEN



Francesca Zambello tackles the Moss Hart, Kurt Weill and Ira Gershwin musical *Lady in the Dark*

The cynically hardnosed may find some of Hart's text too close to cliché, but then one man's cliché is another man's eternal truth, and some of the one-liners certainly have an "ouch" attached ("You have magazines instead of babies"). Zambello is prepared for this. "If the director creates a world where you believe the characters would say things that look like clichés, then they aren't clichés any more."

A psychoanalyst has been to rehearsals to advise on techniques both then and now, and Alexandra Shulman, the editor of UK *Vogue*, has also been invited. "What was great was that we were wondering how Liza could get so far so young, and here's Alex, a mega-powerwoman in her thirties, for five years editor of a multimillion-dollar Condé Nast publication." But not, Zambello hastens to add, given to her by a sugar-daddy.

Do some of the analytical processes sound a little too pat today? "It's funny how the text comes alive. Everything may seem more obvious to us today than in 1941, but people's lives are still destroyed by their mothers, and if we think we know all about it, then why's everybody still lying down on a couch?"

Comparative intimacy should help. The Broadway *Lady* had a huge budget, a cast of 50 and a stage crew of 40. Zambello has 19 "wonderful British actors, who you'd never think would be in a musical", and they have to work hard, with even more doubling of roles between office and fantasy sequence than in the original. The cast is led by Maria Friedman in the role created by Gertrude Lawrence — so the music should look after itself — and Zambello's prime challenge is "to make the book as good as the music".

● Lady in the Dark *opens at the National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) on Tuesday*

Sing it again, afresh

THE instinctive reaction to seeing Weslia Whitfield carried on to the stage is a well-meaning but patronising surge of compassion. Paralysed below the waist after being shot by a teenage thug 20 years ago, the San Francisco vocalist has no need of sympathy. She is quite simply too gifted a performer for that.

Tony Bennett and the cabaret wunderkind Michael Feinstein have both signed up to her fan club, but until now London audiences have had no opportunity to hear her in person. She will have made many more converts by the end of the week.

Her technique is so sound and understated that it is rendered almost invisible. While others choose to approach show tunes as a pretext for unremitting high-wire virtuosity, she takes a more intimate course. Lerner and Loewe's *Brigadoon* showstopper *Almost Like Being In Love* sounded all the more effective for not being oversold, Las Vegas fashion.

CABARET

Weslia Whitfield
Pizza on the Park

Whitfield allowed the words to speak for themselves. A lesser artist might have risked lapsing into perfectly enunciated but emotionally sterile poses. Yet her subtle shading of accents and the thoughtful juxtaposition of moods — from the wry satire of cult composer Dave Frishberg to the unabashed romance of *Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye* — made this a particularly stimulating and witty journey through the American songbook.

Clearly a devotee of verses, she used the opportunity to sidle into *The Very Thought Of You* and *This Can't Be Love*. Mike Greensill's arrangements for piano and Simon Woolf's double-bass played a crucial role throughout, generating little eddies of rhythm and subtle countermelody beneath her serene voice. It was ironic that she opened with a languorous exploration of *I've Heard That Song Before*: Whitfield's achievement lies in convincing her listeners that the very opposite is true.

CLIVE DAVIS

THEATRE: Irony underlines a pair of one-act musicals. Plus, a bleak look at social ills

Bittersweet cocktail with quite a kick

IF THE overemphatic title suggests that someone is being ironic about love, that would accurately reflect the authors' intentions. But the more obvious reason for the repetition is that Barry Harman and Keith Herrmann are working in an unusual genre. They have created two one-act musicals, the first based on a short story by that arch-cynic, Schnitzler, the other an updating of a play by his almost equally acid contemporary, Jules Renard.

The French dramatist's *Pain de Ménage*, or *Household Bread*, is not much known in Britain; but it was described by the great producer and theatrical innovator André Antoine as "a masterpiece worthy of taking its place alongside the most celebrated pieces in the repertoire of the Comédie Française". Librettist Harman and composer Herrmann's foray into the bittersweet is more venturesome than anybody encountering Steven Dexter's enjoyably unpretentious production would suspect.

Romance, Romance
Gielgud

In the Schnitzler a wealthy roué and a successful courtesan, weary of the sexual *ronde* in laid-back Vienna, each decide to look for love in simpler places. Mark Adams's Alfred disguises himself as a poor poet, Caroline O'Connor pretends to be a shopgirl, and the inevitable proceeds to happen. They meet, fall for each other, but cannot long sustain a joint spree in the pastoral outback: "It's the sort of spot Cézanne might have wished to sketch, which is why I sleep for hours at a stretch." There's relief in their joint discovery of the truth, not least because they can at last admit that their love will be temporary.

In the Americanised Renard, both performers swap period finery for chequered pants. This time, they are Sam and Monica, platonic friends who begin late at night to admit their boredom with their trusting spouses — "at this hour Lennie could sleep through sex and frequently does" — yet cannot take the next step; the emotional stakes are just too high.

DONALD COOPER

All-round talent: Caroline O'Connor and Mark Adams

The musical originated in the New York of 1988, a place and time when those mixing bittersweet cocktails were apt to add more sweet than bitter. That shows in the poorly handled ending of the Renard — Monica's angry disappointment evaporates like a puddle in summer — and in the pleasantly unacerbic tunes that accompany the Schnitzler. Moreover the show hasn't the informal, intimate feel it reportedly had when it received its British premiere at the tiny Bridewell in September.

But as Adams and O'Connor swished or padded round the stage, followed by their dancing alter egos or watched by their unseen spouses, I found myself succumbing to their spell. He is a nice, relaxed actor-singer, she an all-round talent who more than fulfils the promise she recently showed in *Mack and Mabel*. I don't often go in for anointing the stars of tomorrow, but her bad-elf face and sly sense of fun force my hand. Here's a performer who will surely delight us for years.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Give up and move on

THE title sounds like a quote. Likewise the poster, with its image of a resolute woman holding up her strong arm. Of course April de Angelis has chosen her title with irony in mind because neither image nor, I think, title can be used without it except in times of national emergency. The message that we should buckle down, find the solution and create the future by well-planned effort ought to be applicable to problems and emergencies of any scale. Unfortunately it isn't, because there are cases where no solution seems possible, short of annihilation of the human race.

De Angelis goes nowhere as far as suggesting this in Out of Joint's latest production (co-sponsored by Barclays Stage Partners), though she does raise the possibility that annihilation of the wish to care for other people may be the likeliest way to stay calm. Even if this bleak conclusion need not be drawn from her play, her central character discovers many reasons to consider it the best and fearful choice.

She is Miranda, a social worker whose perennially difficult client is a single parent in love with a violent boyfriend. How supportive Margot Leicester's Miranda is, how concerned to show positive courses of action to Julia Lane's dolefully sullen Paula, how gently, encouragingly patient, and how maddening.

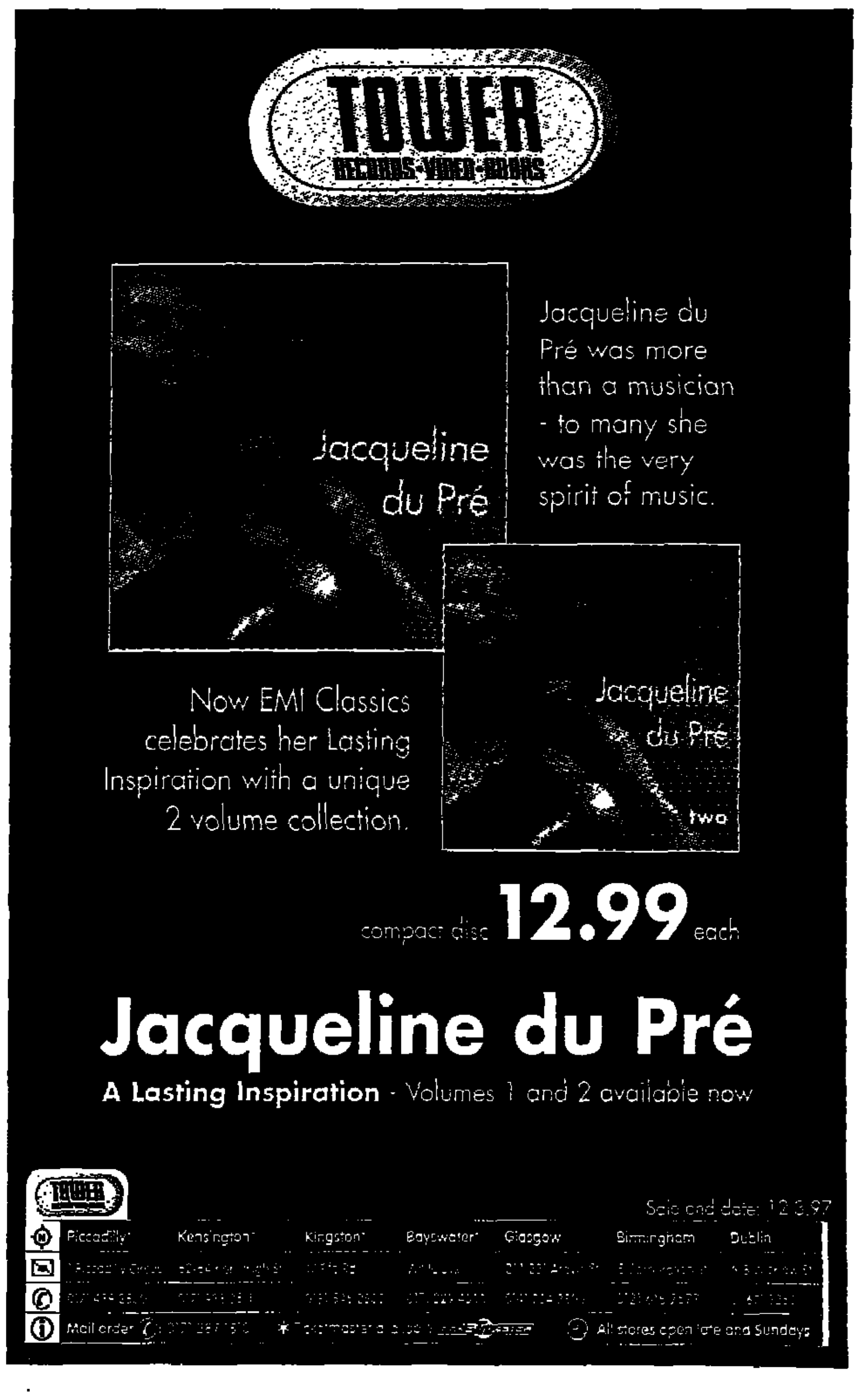
Another of her clients is young Nicola (Kate Ashfield, naively gushing), trying to make a life for herself away from her reproachful dad. There is also Emma, a close friend, divorced but still going to bed with her husband's coat. "My clients' lives make ours look like heaven," she tells her husband. "Sure," he replies, but since he is played by Robin Soans, unrivalled for the skill with which he can show us disaffected, absurdly self-questioning males, we can be sure that trouble also looms on the home front.

The Positive Hour
Hampstead

The scenes are set in Miranda's office, her own home, another home where Patti Love's finally adventurous Emma first tastes the thrills of rubber'n'bondage, and one brief interlude of country calm. Julia McGowan's design, while keeping the foreground unchanged, alters what we see behind it — bookcases, sculpture, treescape — and so swiftly that Max Stafford-Clark's direction can make the progress of the characters flow smoothly through the play, and easily accommodate the shifts from real distress to bizarrely comic confrontations.

It is a comic play, resting on the sad possibility that what Miranda criticises in others as "giving up", and tries to counter with optimistic thought, may truly be "moving on". Leicester introduces a poignant tremor to her voice as this fear surfaces. Social concern is today not so easy to fulfil in action. Alas. Hence the oddly old-fashioned look of that arm-bending poster.

JEREMY KINGSTON



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You must remember this

Anthony Storr

VICTIMS OF MEMORY
Incest Accusations and Shattered Lives
By Mark Pendergrast
HarperCollins, £14.99
ISBN 0 00 255684 7

Sexual abuse of children by adults is a betrayal of trust and a particularly nasty form of exploitation of the weak by the strong. Recent disclosures of "paedophile rings" exchanging information about the availability of children for sexual exploitation and parading their tastes on the Internet have rightly shocked the British public. There is little doubt that the actual incidence of childhood seduction has been underestimated until recently, although no one knows the exact figures.

But, especially in the United States, the pendulum has swung so far in the opposite direction that sexual abuse in childhood is now frequently invoked by dubious therapists as the original cause of almost every form of adult unhappiness. When those seeking help for their problems cannot remember sexual abuse occurring in their childhood, they are told that they have repressed the memory of it, and that, during therapy, they will undoubtedly recall it. They are also encouraged to believe that, by recapturing these painful memories, they will purge themselves of the trauma they have suffered, and return to mental health.

A situation is thus created in which it is in the interest of both patient and therapist that sexual abuse is recalled, whether or not this actually occurred. Given the inherent unreliability of memory, and the vulnerability to suggestion which cannot be avoided by anyone who becomes a patient receiving psychotherapy, it is not surprising that many patients recall sexual abuse which may never have taken place.

Pendergrast's book is the most detailed exploration of the "False Memory Syndrome" which I have read. Pendergrast was himself accused of sexually abusing his two daughters, and has entirely lost touch with them on this account. He was so shaken by their accusations that he began to doubt his own integrity; but his detailed investigation into the phenomena of memory restored his faith in himself. "My only real defence is the truth. I didn't sexually abuse my children."

Both Great Britain and the United States have allowed the proliferation of far too many so-called "psychotherapists". In Britain, efforts to ensure that no one can practise psychotherapy without a proper training and registration have so far come to nothing. In any case, there can be no absolute safeguards. A well-qualified, formerly respected Harvard psychiatrist shocked his colleagues a few years ago by publishing a book in which he asserted that many of his patients had been abducted and sexually interfered with by aliens.

There is evidence to show that it is not difficult to implant false memories into the minds of normal people. Memory is more unreliable than is generally realised. For example, many people recall striking or amusing incidents from childhood. But do they really remember them, or do they remember what their parents told them? It is often impossible to be sure. As one psychologist wrote: "In the final analysis, memory isn't like reading a book; it's like writing a book from fragmentary notes."

Yet "recovered memory" therapists claim that detailed, accurate memories of traumatic sexual events are hidden from the conscious mind, preserved intact by the mechanism of repression and can be disinterred by a variety of therapeutic measures. There is no evidence that such massive repression ever takes place. In fact, those who have been sexually abused as children usually recall their experiences only too vividly, and often wish that they could forget them.

So many families have been disrupted by false accusations that "False Memory" Associations exist in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Britain and the United States. These groups both investigate the problems raised and counsel those who have suffered in the way described by the author of this book. I commend Pendergrast's courage and objectivity, as well as the thoroughness of his research. I doubt whether any book of greater importance will be published in 1997.

Robert Shepherd traces the road to new Labour

Keep smiling: Tony Blair with Wallace and Gwendolyn from Nick Park's *A Close Shave*

Everyone's invited this time

THE PEOPLE'S PARTY
By Tony Wright and Matt Carter
Thames & Hudson, £18.95
ISBN 0 500 01768 9

Matt Wright and Tony Carter's illustrated history of the Labour Party offers an admirably clear and informative guide to one of the most remarkable political sagas of the 20th century. *The People's Party* is a godsend for readers who want to familiarise themselves quickly with the main events and personalities in Labour's history, but who hitherto have been deterrred by the arcane tomes that confront them. The book includes a brief chronology and a well-chosen guide to further reading.

Readers who are well acquainted with Labour's history will welcome the incorporation in one book of so many evocative illustrations. The reproduction in large print of key quotations by leading politicians and thinkers — among them Sydney Webb, R. H. Tawney, Clem Attlee and Tony Crosland — demonstrates the underlying intellectual force and humanity that have sustained Labour even in its darkest hours.

The authors steer a skilful path through Labour's many convulsions and contortions, but at times their prose becomes too spare and the passion at the heart of Labour's turbulent history is sacrificed. On the whole, they have produced a balanced history, but their last two chapters offer a Blairite interpretation of Labour's 18-year exclusion from office. Wright co-edited an earlier book with Gordon Brown and is the MP for Cannock, once the seat of the firebrand socialist Jennie Lee, while Carter is a tutor at the University of York and a prospective parliamentary candidate.

The People's Party charts Labour's history from the meeting of socialists and trade unionists on February 27, 1900, that established the Labour Representation Committee in order to increase working-class representation in Parliament, to the party's recent rebirth as new Labour. The treatment of this latest twist as being unproblematic is likely to annoy old Labour's dwindling band, although the latter will find some consolation in the early chapters that offer a timely reminder, splendidly illustrated, of their party's class origins. The authors are rewarded for their uncritical account of the modernisers' triumph with an appreciative introduction by Tony Blair.

Blair contributes one of the book's more intriguing insights by revealing that a portrait of Keir-Hardie, one of the chief architects of the new Labour Party of nearly a century ago, hangs on the wall of his office. For darts practice, perhaps? — although such a pastime is probably too plebeian for new Labour. The image of Hardie reproduced by Wright and Carter is that of a working-class radical, peering from the front page of an early pamphlet. He is a dead ringer for the left-wing MP and *bête noire* of new Labour, Jeremy Corbyn.

Yet Blair and Hardie may have more in common than meets the eye. After all, Hardie's pamphlet was entitled, *Young Men in a Hurry*. He wrote it to help "the average politician to calculate whether or not" the Independent Labour Party, founded in 1893, "was likely to prove permanent or is merely the outcome of some temporary aberration which will pass away as the years bring wisdom". Whether or not Blair's new Labour will also be the forerunner of a lasting realignment in British politics is a question that is beyond this book's scope.

New Labour is the phoenix that rose from the ashes after Margaret Thatcher had demolished old Labour's trade union and local government citadels. The "radical modernisers," as Wright and Carter describe Blair and his allies, have been better depicted as "neo-Thatcherites", by John Biffen in, of all places, *Tribune* — political cross-dressing is clearly the vogue. Blair and Brown have accepted Thatcher's far-reaching privatisations and her extension of means-testing in the welfare state, Nigel Lawson's 40 per cent top rate of income tax, and the Government's spending limits. Now even the burning desire of Tony Crosland to abolish the (expletive deleted) grammar schools is abandoned.

Wright and Carter appear to have airbrushed from their picture Hugh Gaitskell's Eurosceptic *cri de coeur* at his last party conference, in which he gave warning that British membership of the EEC would mean "the end of a thousand years of history". And although they acknowledge the fragmentation of Labour's working-class support after 1970, they offer no adequate explanation. But the authors remind us that Peter Mandelson, the architect of Labour's new image, is the grandson of Herbert Morrison. Once the stalwart of Labour's old-style right wing, Morrison defined socialism as being whatever a Labour government does. His grandson would never allow anything as dangerously revolutionary to be said about new Labour.

Robert Shepherd's Enoch Powell: A Biography *is published by Hutchinson, priced £25.*

Tale that bowls along

GRAHAME BAKER

Russell Celyn Jones

THE COLLECTOR COLLECTOR
By Tibor Fischer
Secker and Warburg, £12.99
ISBN 0 436 20436 3

Tibor Fischer's latest novel is all about love, and is narrated by an antique bowl. Inanimate but not impartial, it charts women's amorous experiences — what they want and what they get: rarely one and the same. Men are condemned as pretty inanimate themselves, or irredeemable fools. Their infidelity is so quotidian that suspicion is cast even on the faithful, who then join in, having nothing to lose. "Like many old men in the grave up to their noses, he is still chewed by lechery" — is a typical sentiment.

Fischer himself is a collector of sorts — of languages: anarchic, jacked-up stuff. It is his gymnastic displays, rather than say, plot, that you pay your money for. His style is to liberate vocabulary from meaning ("Nisaba zami, as we used to dubsar in Lagash"): use playful alliteration ("orifices their offices"): turn nouns into verbs (a lorry "monsters" up). As the dish puts it: "I'm the original, so genuine even the genuine ones look like copies."

This highly ubiquitous dish, circa 843 BC, is our eyes and ears in the apartment of art dealer Rosa. To her it "grasses" on miniaturist epistles from antiquity. These stories are fabulist and worldly in nature, and being on the theme of love link contextually to Rosa's own, often surreal quests for the right man. Her failures in the boyfriend department contrast with those of her uninvited house guest Nikki. Hooker, drug addict, and accompished liar, all Nikki wants is to be "the girl wrapped in boys" having long given up on love's false trail; and with it, morality too. She loots all Rosa's worldly possessions and creates havoc when the hired assassins of former "floridas" — one-night stands — come to try to kill her. The two women develop a tenuous alliance in trying to find the unfindable. Ironic humour is their defence against harm. Tragedy is reinterpreted as comedy.

Ideas in art can and do get appropriated. Take Odile, for instance, who, the collector collector explains, wrote *Oliver Twist* and *Madame Bovary* in 1834 only to be pipped to the publishers by Dickens and Flaubert. But style, like Fischer's, is less inimitable. The splintered cerebral poetry that marked out his previous novel, *The Thought Gang*, is evident here too. His personal signature, like that of Iain Sinclair, Martin Amis ("I don't want to write a sentence any other guy can write") has sustained itself over the oeuvre.

The limitation of such clamorous voices sets in when the singer overwhelms the song. Fischer is a satirist whose Babelesque brilliance sometimes eclipses sense. "If an ubarum, a naptarum or a mudum wants to sell his beer, the sabitum shall sell the beer for him". And the Ooooos that pepper the text ("Oooorotund", etc.) may be appropriate for a narrator with a cylindrical orifice, but it could just be a character sticking on Fischer's keyboard.

The Collector Collector's epicentre is friendship between women, but the book's strength resides in a simple theme working in counterpoint with complex language. Fischer has the intellect and wit of Julian Barnes, who had a similar triumph with *A History of the World in 10½ Chapters.*

There is a strict and serious hand behind the pen here too. Fischer's narrator has a big mouth, but also a big heart. It makes "interventions in fleshy fortunes" by changing its shape, mantis-like, when favoured owners get into a spot of bother with violence. As it says, in a moment of didactic tenderness: "It is the champions who know nothing of life. Winning is not life, fighting for third place is."

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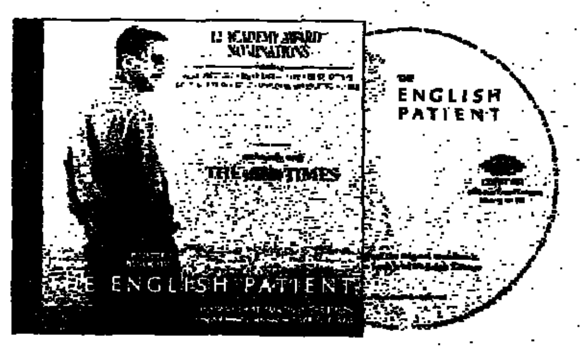

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CHANGING TIMES

Making the sound of sense

UNIVERSAL

Andrew Motion: poems that reveal his temperament

Michael Hofmann

SALT WATER
By Andrew Motion
Faber, £7.99
ISBN 0 571 19019 7

For a time in the mid-1980s, when his poem *A Letter* won the Arvon Competition, when he and Blake Morrison edited the *Penguin Book of Contemporary British Poetry* together, and when Penguin published *Dangerous Play*, his early selected poems, Andrew Motion looked to be in the absolute mainstream of British poetry of the time: writing poems that were talky and oblique, working on a fusion of image, narrative and voice, stealing the clothes of prose fiction.

Since then, having tried — and then thrown in — his hand at fiction himself, then rapidly becoming an experienced biographer (a triple header of the Lambert family, his Larkin, a shiny new Keats out in a few months), poetry has changed for him, and his own poetry has changed too. One couldn't any longer call him typical. He has left the mainstream and is hacking his way into his own undergrowth.

His books now tend to be longer, and to contain fewer, longer poems (his last volume, *The Price of Everything*, just two). They like to accommodate prose — the second part of *Salt Water*, entitled *Sailing to Italy*, is his prose journal of taking a sailing boat to Rome, following in the watery footsteps of the dying Keats in 1820. And the verse in them is pured into stout and serviceable forms: rhymed couplets and quatrains, blank verse. Writing about Keats has had an effect too — as writing on Philip Larkin did previously. There are soul-landscapes like *The Clearing*, a poem about the Thames like Shelley's *Alastor*.

What you get in these new poems is a peculiar collision — again, not unlike the Romantics — between matter and manner. It's as though writing so much prose in the past ten years has made Motion bigger and bolder and bluffer. He is unfussy and plain-spoken, even impatient, no longer willing or able to wait for the poetic formulation or image. The poems begin loudly and confidently: "This is a long time ago," "I would like to make it clear." "I won't say much about it now." But at the same time, these robust poems are about ghosts: those of Keats, of the poet's mother, of friends who died in the sinking of the *Marchioness* and of cancer.

They become that strange thing: an almost impersonal pursuit of Motion's innermost feelings of sadness and depression; an unapologetic venting of his own temperament, both in the poems and in the journal, when, for instance, in a flat calm off Trafalgar, he is gripped by a fury: "I want to stick a marlin spike up his arse and throw him to the shark which has just idled past, its fin slick and alert."

As those brilliant adjectives show, Motion has not lost or given up all his finesse by any means; a rainy day has intermittent "squirts" of hot sunshine, an aeroplane "drenches" the boat with its noise, a pigeon "stamps" in its bowls of water. But *Salt Water* is characterised less by such subleties of tone and observation then by insistence and volume. "I love it," Motion writes of the river, or, in a poem about a dress: "I hate — I really hate — to think of some other bum/ swinging those heavy flower-heads left to right." It is meant, I think, to be Frost's "the sound of sense", but I hear too much the grinding of gears and spinning of tyres.

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هكذا من الأصل

He did amuse her, at least

Roy Strong on Queen Victoria's beloved Prince Consort, architect of the modern monarchy

Landseer's portrait of Victoria and Albert, dressed as Queen Philippa and Edward III for a costume ball in 1842

I once went on holiday with a man whose wife was German. I still recall my amazement when he opened his suitcase revealing, pasted within its lid, a list drawn up by her giving him precise instructions as to what he was to wear each day. This was not the only instance of her well-meant Germanic thoroughness that came to mind as I read the life of Prince Albert. What is it about this younger scion of an impoverished German duchy which produces a kind of instant mental switch-off?

Here was a consort seemingly ideal for an age, a Victorian new man who not only loved his wife but was also loyal to her, who went on to educate her, who, in addition, was unstintingly devoted to good causes and good works, to education, science, technology and the arts — besides having a commitment to improving the lot of the lower orders. But yet he never captures the heart or the imagination. And that is not because he has been tarnished by a posthumous verdict, the result of two wars against Germany in this century, for it was a view that was firmly subscribed to within his own lifetime.

Roy Strong

ALBERT
Uncrowned King
By Stanley Weintraub
John Murray, £25
ISBN 0 7195 5756 9

Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha was the younger son of the ruler of a duchy half the size of the Isle of Wight, one of those tiny Thuringian states which had produced a long line of Hanoverian consorts. His father was no model prince and his mother vanished into exile for an indiscretion. It was an unhappy childhood, but Albert was precocious and responded to a formidable education. The Coburgs were not only bright but pushy. Uncle Leopold had been married to George IV's daughter, Charlotte, and after her demise became King of the Belgians.

By 1836 it was clear that his niece, Victoria, would succeed and that she would need a husband. What no one could have predicted was that she would be besotted by him, epitomised by the famous line in her journal: "It was with some emotion that I beheld Albert — who is beautiful." It is clear that he must have been wonderful in bed, for even in that reticent age the Queen made no secret of the fact that his early demise had curtailed these delights. For the rest of her life she had to make do with hugging his nightshirt.

In his role as royal superstud nine children followed, and the Queen, who never had much of a head for business, let the Prince gradually take over the affairs of government. By the 1840s royal power had already been reduced to warning and advising, but Albert's preoccupation was to prevent any further erosion. Indeed, in foreign affairs he seems to have crossed the constitutional borderline with a passionate commitment to German unification.

The Prince Consort was certainly Albert the Good, hard-working to excess, dedicated and devoted, but he was also humourless, lacking the common touch and was never truly popular. The ability to delegate seems to have been totally missing, his time often being wasted on minutiae like designing the VC medal and hats for army officers. And he emerges as curiously friendless. That failure to evoke affection is reflected in the fact that he was accorded the title Prince Consort by the Queen, Victoria realising that Parliament would never grant it.

But he did undoubtedly change the face of the monarchy from being too often frivolous to being dull but worthy. Here came together what has kept his successors on the throne: the support of charities, the association with national enterprises, the honouring of heroes, the exemplary domestic life. To achieve that he isolated the Crown from the old upper classes, rendering it seemingly bourgeois. He also cultivated retreat — Balmoral and Osborne are monuments to that. Even today ministers have to grind their way to inaccessible areas of the island. And although his public persona emerges as being as chilly as one of the iron columns of his Crystal Palace, the Great Exhibition of 1851 — his child more than anyone else's — has come to symbolise the triumphs of an age.

Stanley Weintraub is a diligent and painstaking biographer and here it all is, but he is saddled with the problem that his hero falls short. This is a fine, well-researched life but, alas, Albert fails to live up to the prince of romance of Laurence Houseman's plays which Weintraub quotes from time to time. The author also suffers from the deficiency that being American he writes from outside rather than in.

Beautiful Albert may have been, but he was also stiff and unbending. Already running to seed by his early thirties, balding, puff-faced and portly, it is interesting to speculate what would have happened had he lived to a ripe old age. We would at least have been spared all those statues which his widow spent her time unveiling. The British have always been chary of the interfering consorts of their Queens from Philip II of Spain down to Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. And in that perhaps they've been right.

Sir Roy Strong was Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, 1974-87; his latest book, The Story of Britain, *is published by Hutchinson, priced £35.*

It's not unusual to be tempted by lost love

IT IS hard not to visualise Nina Bawden's new novel as a rollicking television series along the lines of *A Year in Provence* or (better) *Nice Work*, which at once indicates its weakness as well as the strength of story and amiable lightness of touch. The jacket blurb claims the novel is "reminiscent of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*" in the unlikeliness of its couplings, yet the comparison must be rejected, if only because in *A Nice Change* there is nothing of the patronising cruelty dished out to Bottom by the tedious fairies. Bawden's world is benign; little darkness is permitted to shadow its Aegean sun.

Bel Mooney

A NICE
CHANGE
By Nina Bawden
Virago, £15.99
ISBN 1 86049 276 2

A motley crowd of tourists boards the hotel minibus at the airport, at the beginning of a Greek package holiday. Bawden introduces her cast with vivid economy: the Labour MP Tom Jones and his wife Amy, Tom's former mistress Portia, the American publisher Philip, the young doctor Prudence, an odd British couple called Mr and Mrs Boot, and a set of elderly, elegant and enigmatic twins, the Farrell sisters. Later, at the hotel, they are added to in the shape of Prudence's tiresome grandmother, and Tom's likeable father Vic.

The double resonance of the name Tom Jones is oddly distracting; perhaps irony is intended since the testy, middle-aged MP, recovering from an operation on his piles, is far removed from both changeling charmer and crooner. For Jones, the accidental presence of his ex-mistress on this tour is unbelievable and threatening; for Portia there is pleasure both in his discomfort and in the fact that she can be friendly to the wife — who has no knowledge that she was the anonymous mistress of the past. Amy herself is afflicted with sexual longing for the handsome American, Philip, while he, recovering from the suicide of his wife, is drawn to the sensible young doctor Prudence — and finds youth as well as love again. The Boots are comic caricatures; the Farrell sisters creations of genius who merit a novel to themselves rather than just an incidental role in the central Jones/Portia story.

The stage is set, and if these mortals are fools, there is no sense of a *deus ex machina* that makes them so, nor of any serious innate stupidity, or even wickedness, leading them into temptation. They are only complicated enough for the twists of the story; there is nothing within them to change one's perception of the world. For some readers this will be a relief; for others a frustration — the lack of any real inner life in these characters is a flaw. Philip's personal tragedy is not dwelt on; it is the means by which he is propelled into a new life. The staleness within the Jones marriage is not explored to any proper degree.

Leave that for other writers. Bawden's agenda is different here; she is propelling us towards a happy ending as surely as she places her characters in its way. They are particles bouncing around the Universe, stumbling upon happiness by accident if they are lucky, and not hurting each other much in between. Their mysteries and longings are sorted out, and Bawden manages at once to convey the randomness of things and a sense of design at the heart of the Universe.

Lover of both faith and reason

Roger Scruton admires a thinker who found salvation in philosophy

The philosopher Peter Abelard (1079-1142) will always be famous as the lover of Héloïse, and the greatest of love's victims, who was not granted even the escape-clause enjoyed by Tristan, Lancelot, Romeo and the thousand other men who have died for love while still able to make it. In his day, however, Abelard was more famous as a teacher of logic, and notorious less for his tragic affair than for his heretical doctrines. It is uncertain who wrote the letters between Abelard and Héloïse; but John Marenbon mounts a credible case for their authenticity.

What *is* certain is that Abelard was not merely the lover of his former pupil, but also her husband, and the father of her son. His castration, brought about by Héloïse's wicked guardian and uncle, caused Abelard to take up the monastic life. Thereafter he addressed many of his works to his wife, who at his request had become a nun. Héloïse rose to be prioress, as Abelard became abbot, but their story resides less in the religious quietus that they both finally achieved, than in its tumultuous beginnings.

THE PHILOSOPHY
OF PETER ABELARD
By John Marenbon
Cambridge University Press, £40
ISBN 0 521 55397 0

Abelard wrote his own account of his misfortunes — the *Historia Calamitatum*. His purpose in doing so was not to dwell on his tragic loss but to put it behind him, so as to devote himself to the religious life. However, conflicts of doctrine and personality with the all-powerful St Bernard left him in danger of excommunication for heresy.

Christianity was not yet inoculated against the virus of philosophy, and Abelard, who was one of the first to construct a theological system based in Aristotelian logic — or what could be understood of Aristotelian logic, from the fragments then available — was less cautious than he might have been in his theological conclusions. He was a brilliant teacher who returned to teaching whenever the opportunity arose. And he was a remarkable thinker, who anticipated the Thomist attempt to unite ancient philosophy and Christian religion. In an age dominated by educated clergy such a person was bound to be seen as a threat.

Abelard's admiration for the pagan philosophers led him to find, in their writings, anticipations of the leading Christian doctrines. And he saw the ancient virtues as stages on the way to Christian salvation.

Central to Abelard's ethics is another ancient idea: that man is distinguished from the rest of nature by his rationality. The rational being has free will, and with it the choice between salvation and damnation. The truths of religion must be perceivable to reason, if we are freely to believe them; philosophy must therefore show the rational basis even for the most daunting of religious ideas — such as the Trinity. Reason will tend of its own accord towards these religious ideas — and Abelard was comforted to find a version of the Trinity in Plato.

AKG PHOTO

Abelard and his Héloïse

John Marenbon has buried himself in Abelard's writings and in the writings of his contemporaries, and produced what must be the most scholarly account to date of Abelard's ideas. Recent British philosophy has noticed Abelard not so much as a Christian theologian, still less as an icon of early medieval culture, but as a precursor of the "analytical" approach, which puts language and logic first. Being a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, where this approach began, Marenbon is heavily influenced by it. He emphasises Abelard's nominalism (his belief that only individuals exist, and that universals, like the colour blue, are no more than words), his discussions of possibility and necessity, and the places where he anticipated recent developments in logic and the philosophy of language.

Many readers will find these topics rather dull, and I am not sure that Marenbon is himself entirely switched on by them. Still, his is a work of scholarship. The footnotes invade up to half of the page, and there are no jokes. I suppose that is the price you pay for a serious book on Abelard. Marenbon's accounts of the theology, of free will and the problem of evil are well worth the effort required to get to them, and my only reservation concerns the author's nervous habit of looking over his shoulder at other scholars, acknowledging them whenever he can in a footnote. This seriously impedes the flow of the argument. Abelard was not so polite to those with whom he disagreed, partly because, unlike Marenbon, he was genuinely offended by the falsehood of their views.

And that, in the end, is the true reason for returning to medieval philosophy. For it was philosophy written in the heat of conviction, by people who thought that their salvation and their happiness depended on their conclusions. Marenbon awakens an intense longing for that kind of philosophy, largely because he does not provide it.

Fleas, lice and admen

The darlings of a glamorous crowd: Bell with Joan Collins in 1989 — he had compared her to another woman for whom he had admiration, Margaret Thatcher

Sir Tim Bell is a brilliant salesman, on behalf of himself as well as his clients, particularly Margaret Thatcher. She was, and is, for Bell what Irene Adler was for Sherlock Holmes, "*the* woman". Sir Tim (knighted in the Thatcher resignation Honours List) has graduated from being one of the main architects of the success of the original Saatchi and Saatchi to being the confidant and adviser to the rich and famous in times of trouble and stress. He is what would have been described as a man of business or a contact man, a superb fixer in that incestuous world of Tory businessmen and newspaper editors.

As such, Bell merits a biography, though he discouraged Mark Hollingsworth from writing this one. Hollingsworth has written several books on the seamier side of politics and an unauthorised study of Mark Thatcher, without question the most disliked person in the Thatcher circle. But this book is far from a hatchet job, though it lacks the balance that would have come from Bell's co-operation and there are several niggling inaccuracies, particularly on politics.

Instances where Bell's advice did not work and details of his conviction for indecent exposure in 1977, and his use of cocaine from then until the early 1980s, are included. But his cocaine problem was hardly a secret in the political and media world and is treated by Hollingsworth in a generally sympathetic way in the context of his personal stress at a time when he was falling out with the Saatchi brothers. He also acknowledges his happy family life now.

Indeed, Hollingsworth has in some ways fallen for Bell's outrageous and indiscreet charm, which one colleague says reminded him of "an extremely powdered and pampered courtesan". Bell has an ability to put the powerful at their ease and understood that the way to treat Margaret Thatcher was as a woman, flirting with her and making her laugh.

No one disputes the success of Lowe Bell Communications. But the question remains, what was Sir Tim Bell's contribution to politics? He was part of that group of Thatcher courtiers, also including Gordon Reece, Maurice Saatchi, Alistair McAlpine, David Young and, on the fringes, Jeffrey Archer, who were mainly of service to her personally. Apart from Young, they had no influence on the development of Thatcherism. The real heavyweights of the Thatcher years were Keith Joseph as a prophet, Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson and Norman Tebbit as policymakers, and Willie Whitelaw as the vital political engineer. After the departure of the latter and her falling out with Howe, Lawson and Tebbit, she was doomed. The courtiers, like Bell, never really understood this because they were besotted with her.

Peter Riddell

THE ULTIMATE
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By Mark Hollingsworth
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ISBN 0 340 61697 0

These courtiers all exaggerated the importance of advertising and of political campaigns. Most were involved in the entirely unnecessary panics which were regular features of the Thatcher elections. Hollingsworth quotes the scepticism of the redoubtable Sir Bernard Ingham, who was always suspicious of Bell's role and doubted the value of his advice, and of Nigel Lawson. In his memoirs, Lawson is dismissive of importance of campaigns and of paid advertising. Quoting Dr Johnson, he describes the relative contributions to the 1987 victory of the rival advertising agencies battling for Mrs Thatcher's ear as of "a louse and a flea".

Sir Tim Bell and Lord Saatchi are involved again this time, in what may be the Last Hurrah for the old guard. But, as in previous campaigns, the election may depend less on advertising and fixing a few editors than on the public's verdict built up over several years — which even Sir Tim's charm cannot change.

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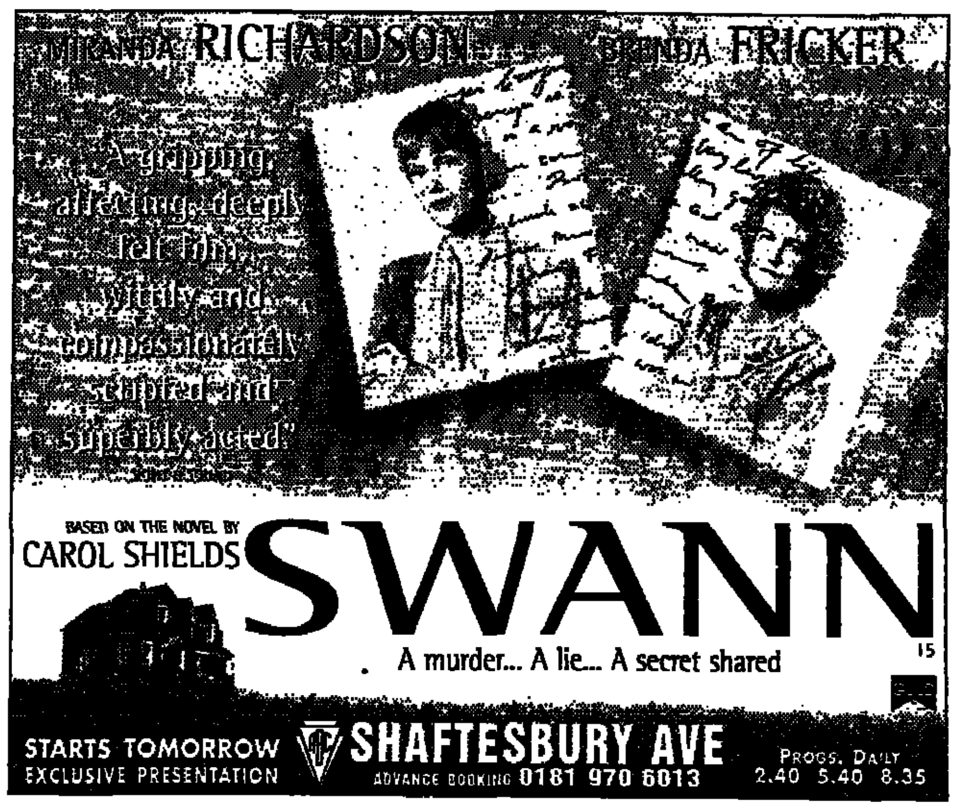

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The French connection

THE profound influence on Europe of French furniture styles and techniques is apparent throughout the fair. An early 18th-century marquetry box by the German craftsman Johann Puchwiser is decorated in the Parisian Boulle manner with tortoiseshell and mother-of-pearl (Blumka). One of the greatest German makers was David Roentgen, represented by a severely elegant Louis XVI mahogany commode with gilded-bronze mounts (Daxer & Marschall).

The sweeter mid-century rococo style shown in a Louis XV gilt-mounted marquetry desk by Francois Mondon (Gierhards) is echoed by a set of yellow lacquer Italian serpentine-backed Piedmontese chairs with original needlework covers (Pelham).

The English Palladian style is apparent from the architectural appearance of a George II mahogany cupboard attributed to William Hallett, about 1740 (Axel Vervoordt). The German architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel designed a large elm and mahogany secretaire made by Guillaume Wilhelm Dreusike, 1842 (Camoin-Demachy). Also in light-coloured marquetry, this time in ash burl and amaranth and a decade or two earlier, from the France of Charles X, comes a set of furniture including sofas, chairs and a games table (N Ikodinovic).

Wooden mirror c. 1720, from Daxer & Marschall

Sturdy English pride will be aroused by the uncompromising shape and relatively simple decoration of an early 17th-century James I oak chest (Huntington). French sensibilities will glow at the mannerist carving, associated with the School of Fontainebleau, of the figures on a late 16th-century walnut cupboard from the time of Henry II (J Zeberg).

Only a Chinese emperor could have possessed a large lacquer casket carved with dragons: it is from the Quianlong period, c. 1736-1795 (Ben Janssens).

PORCELAIN AND POTTERY: Overseas trade with China is illustrated by a pair of 18th-century Qin Dynasty porcelain candlesticks made in a shape derived from contemporary European silver examples (Luis Alegria). From the Tang dynasty, 618-907 AD, is a remarkable earthenware figure of an entertainer (Gisele Croes).

SILVER: Unmistakably English in style are three Queen Anne silver casters by Charles Adams, 1703 (Koopman) as, in its different way, is an oval George III silver-gilt tray by Benjamin Smith, 1804, with a wide border pieced and chased with grapes and leaves (S.J. Phillips).

DAVID COOMBS

Europe's premier fine art and antiques fair celebrates its tenth birthday next week.

Surely the biggest, certainly the best

Although the European Fine Art Fair at Maastricht is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, its origins can be traced to 1975 when a series of fairs was launched in the Dutch city, with alternate years devoted solely to paintings or to antiques.

In 1985, a longer-established rival fair at Delft was discontinued and Maastricht's alternating events were merged into one annual fair. Then in 1988, the European Fine Art Foundation took over the event in what was, in effect, a buyout by the exhibitors — and at that point a regional fair became not only the leading European event but, for many, *the* world fair.

Maastricht, between Belgium and Germany with Luxembourg and France almost within view and London a convenient distance away, is the perfect location for what remains primarily a northern European fair. The picture section is dominated by the Dutch and German schools, with the French and British in attendance. (Richard Green, Johnny Van Haeften, Noortman and Marlborough Fine Arts are among the dealers exhibiting). The love affair with the Orient carried on with the East Indian companies of Holland, Britain and France as intermediaries during the 17th and 18th centuries is evident among the porcelain and works of art, as is the later Belgian fascination with African art.

The original 1975 picture fair brought together 29 dealers representing six countries. This year there are 167 exhibitors from 13 countries, and the simple division between fine and plastic arts has grown to seven categories: pictures, drawings and prints; antiques and works of art; textiles; antiquities; manuscripts, books and maps; jewellery; and 20th-century art.

The private view night brings together not just the rich, the very rich and the *seriously* rich, but museum curators, from around the world, scholars, dealers and more modest collectors. In contrast to a saleroom, where the auctioneer's opinion alone may govern attribution and few if any guarantees are given, every item at Maastricht comes from a leading dealer and has been strictly vetted by peers, competitors and outside authorities.

Because of the northern bias, there are comparatively few Italian paintings on offer. But one man who will show some Italian works, including a portrait of a lady by Bernardino de' Conti (c1470-1523), is Rob Smeets, a Dutchman with a gallery in Milan.

A Dutch painting which could symbolise the opening night of the fair has been brought back to Europe by Jack Kilgore of New York. It is *Village Wedding* by Jan Steen. The groom greets his fiancée at her house before they proceed to the church. Below is celebration, but up above her father and his notary scan the marriage contract.

The furniture on show is more varied than anyone used to national fairs might expect. English oak items brought by Huntington Antiques of Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, and an elegant Ming piece shown by Grace Wu Bruce of Hong Kong, take their place with French, Italian, Dutch and Austro-German items.

Perhaps the most unexpected — but in many ways welcome — stand is that of Andrew Bruce, the London wine consultant, whose offerings are works of art indeed.

Those with shorter pockets need not be deterred by the finery on show. I have only bought two items during the past ten years, but I consider both to have been bargains. I am also immensely the richer for my annual visits.

HUON MALLALIEU

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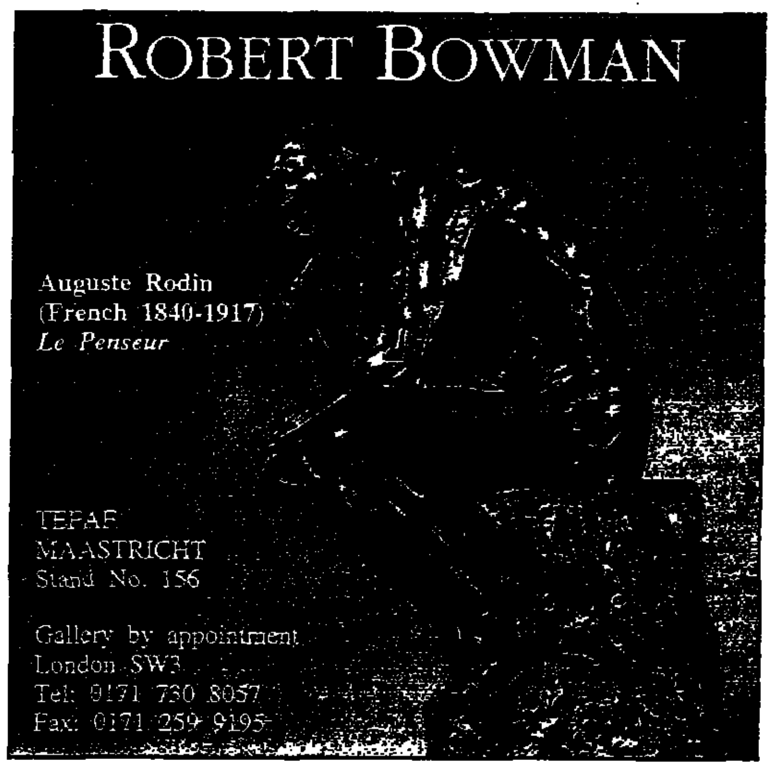

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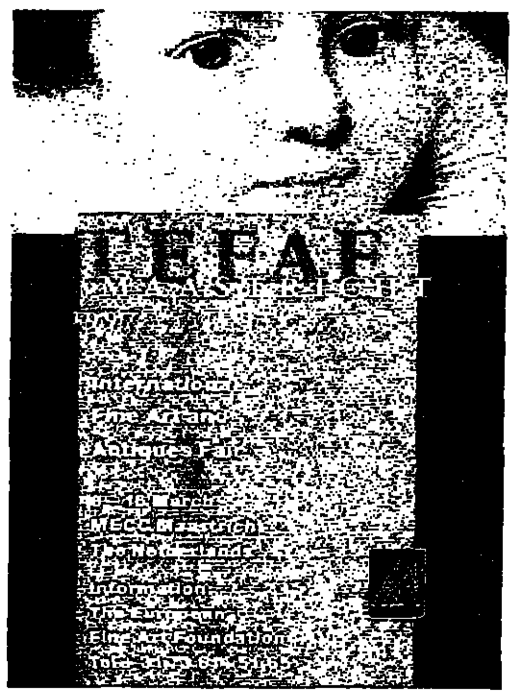

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هكذا من الأعلى

For serious dealers, collectors, historians and browsers, it is an unmissable event

Miracles in ivory, metal and lacquer

The centrepiece of the fair is a loan exhibition, often from a great national collection. This year it is drawn from the treasuries and museums of Maastricht itself and nearby cities, and consists of fine examples of medieval ivory carving — a craft which once flourished in the region, especially in the early 17th century. These unbuyable reliquaries, reliefs and other intricately carved pieces serve as an introduction to the works of art in the fair — all of which are for sale.

This year, Jan Dirven of Antwerp has some magnificent carved pieces in wood or marble, including a Saxon polychrome wooden altarpiece of about 1515 framing an *Adoration of the Magi* which was once in the collection of the Dukes of Norfolk.

More sculpture in clay, wood, ivory and bronze from the early 16th to the mid-18th centuries will be shown by Julius Böhler of Munich. A 36cm 16th-century bronze figure of *Jupiter* demonstrates that a fine physique is not necessarily body-built ugliness, while a baroque ivory bowl and cover carved with river deities by Balthasar Griessmann around 1660 shows the wonderful versatility of the material.

Robert Bowman of London continues the story with 19th and 20th-century sculptures, including this year a delicious 21cm Degas bronze of a dancer, from the edition of 22 cast shortly after his death.

Each year I hurry to the stand of Luis Elvira from Castellon, Spain, who specialises in intriguing metal artefacts. Usually there are extraordinary little boxes with intricate locks and beautiful, elaborate, keys. This year, a contrast in both scale and simplicity, there is also a pair of wrought iron and elm palace doors made in China around 1510.

Among the inevitable blue-and-white and armorial wares on the Oriental stands, Vanderven & Vanderven of 's-Hertogenbosch rarely fail to provide something to intrigue. One such is a Tang terracotta figure of a Lokapala, or tomb-guardian. This creature has a mostly human body, a monkey head with flaming hair and massive teeth, and three claw-like fingers. It may be only 28cm high, but it intimidates as intended.

The ultimate accessory for *Turandot* at Glyndebourne is to be found with Ben Janssens of London. It is a red lacquer picnic-set richly carved with imperial five-clawed dragons sporting in waves. It is fitted with trays and a gilt bronze-lined teapot, caddy and bowls. No other Qianlong period (1736-1795) casket is known with such unusual contents, which means it may have been made for the Emperor himself.

Many stands carry a mixed stock, and the conjunctions and contrasts can be pleasurable. An instance is Pieter Hoogendijk of Baarn in the Netherlands, whose entry in the catalogue has a stately 12th-century Khmer Buddha apparently declining the offer of a swirling shell-shaped silver-gilt bowl made in 1628 by Christiaen van Vianen, a member of a distinguished line of smiths.

HUON MALLALIEU

GETTING THERE

The Maastricht fair is from March 8-16.

Eurostar (0345 303030) runs Waterloo-Brussels, then a shuttle takes visitors via Brussels Airport to the fair (the shuttle must be booked, ring 00 31 73 614 5165).

Oil on panel by Jan van Goyen (1596-1656), from leading British dealer Richard Green

A treasure-trove of books

OF THE seven categories of exhibits at Maastricht, arguably the most eagerly-awaited by serious collectors and dealers is the rare books division. Although there are several fine and rare book fairs in Europe and America each year, few have such an extraordinary variety of treasures.

Amid such an embarrassment of riches, one offering from Les Enluminures of Paris cries out to be noticed: a stunning illuminated manuscript, *The Boswell Book of Hours*, produced in either Northern France or Flanders, (possibly Bruges) c 1460-70. This contains 172 complete folios, ten full-page miniatures and various elaborate initials and borders — the primary media are gouache and highly burnished gold leaf on parchment. The binding is contemporary, and the price is $100,000.

Another superb illuminated manuscript is offered by Antiquariat Jörno Günher of Hamburg: Petrarch's *Seven Penitential Psalms*, the illuminations by The Master of Grimani Brevier. This Bruges script is also in its original binding, and dates back to c 1505.

As one has come to expect, London dealer Bernard Shapero, has on offer a wealth of spectacular items. Probably the most magnificent is *Delle Loggie Di Rafaele Nel Vaticano* (Rome, 1772-76) — two parts in one elephantine folio comprising 30 huge and splendid engraved plates depicting Raphael's frescoes in the Vatican. There are many double sheet-plates and a wonderful panoramic view of the entire gallery made up of three sheets — all finely and richly hand-coloured. This covetable volume is priced at £65,000.

Shapero's wide, first-rate range also includes a first edition of a mid 19th-century work, regarded as the best contemporary illustrated portrayal of Hong Kong. It is Auguste Borget's *La Chine et les Chinois* (Paris, 1842). This large-folio volume comprises 32 views on 25 sepia lithographed plates, and offers fine views of Hong Kong, Macao and Canton, concentrating on the realities of everyday life. In the publisher's original morocco-backed cloth, the folio is offered at £14,500.

Also from Shapero is a fine set of 30 hand-coloured lithographs of black southern Africans, a first edition, in large folio, by George French Angas, produced in London in 1849. Angas, who spent two years in southern Africa, later produced works on the Australian Aborigines and the New Zealand Maoris. This volume — in modern half morocco with raised bands and gilt edges — is £6,750.

One unusual item, from London dealer Sam Fogg Rare Books and Manuscripts, is a rare 15th-century English alabaster altar piece.

A further attraction of the fair is that the buyer can relax, knowing that every item has been vetted for quality and authenticity: so, buy with confidence.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

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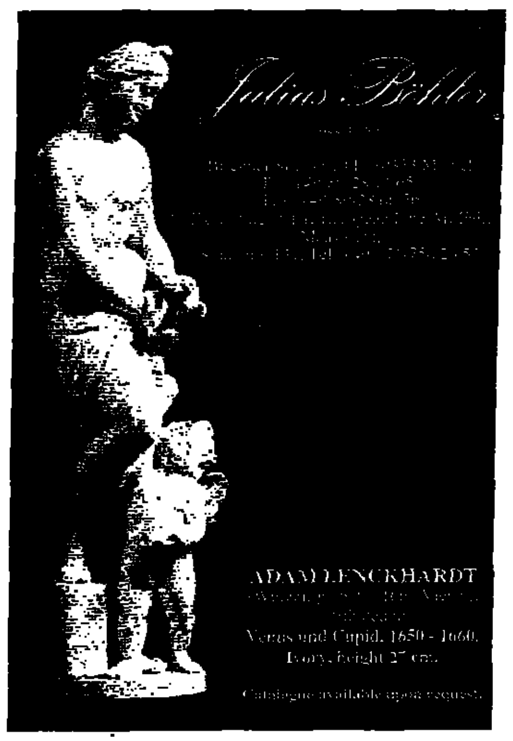

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Court of Appeal

Law Report March 6 1997

Queen's Bench Division

Insolvency assistance request

Hughes and Others v Hannover Ruckversicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft

Before Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment January 28]

When faced with a request for assistance under section 426 of the Insolvency Act 1986 a court in England had available its own common law as well as the statutory insolvency law of England and Wales or of the requesting country. The court had to consider in accordance with those three sources of law whether the request might properly be granted and in cases where discretion was to be exercised the request could never be conclusive.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by Christopher Hughes, David Lines and Peter Mitchell against an order of Mr Justice Knox on April 3, 1996 declining to continue injunctive relief in respect of "any and all jurisdictions" outside England and Wales as sought in a letter of request from the Supreme Court of Bermuda.

The appellants were joint provisional liquidators of a company who wished to restrain proceedings against that company issued by Hannover Ruckversicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft.

Section 426 of the Insolvency Act 1986 provided: "(4) The courts having jurisdiction in relation to insolvency law in any part of the United Kingdom shall assist the courts having the corresponding jurisdiction in any other part of the United Kingdom or any relevant country or territory.

"(5) For the purposes of subsection (4) a request made to a court in any part of the United Kingdom by a court in any other part of the United Kingdom or in a relevant country is authority for the court to which the request is made to apply, in relation to any matters specified in the request, the insolvency law which is applicable by either court in relation to comparable matters falling within its jurisdiction.

"(10) In this section 'insolvency law' means — (a) in relation to England and Wales, provision made by or under this Act or sections 6 to 10, 12, 15, 19(c) and 20 (with Schedule 1) of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 and extending to England and Wales ... (d) in relation to any relevant country or territory, so much of the law of that country or territory as corresponds to provisions falling within any of the foregoing paragraphs."

Mr Gabriel Moss, QC and Miss Susan Prevezer for the appellants; Mr Martin Pascoe for Hannover.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the issues arising concerning construction were:

1 What was comprised in the words "insolvency law" as defined in subsection (10)?

2 What was the interrelationship between subsections (4) and (5) with regard to the ability of the courts in England to assist the courts of the other parts of the UK or of the relevant countries or territories?

3 What was the nature and extent of the obligation imposed by subsection (4)?

The provisions of section 426 had been considered in three reported cases, two of which were considered in the judgment under appeal: see *Re Dallhold* ([1992] BCLC 621); *Re Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA (No 9)* ([1994] 2 BCLC 636) and *Re Focus Insurance Company* ([1996] BCC 659).

In his Lordship's view, a historical survey of the authorities and statutory predecessors of section 426 revealed a number of material propositions.

The assistance afforded to the requesting court was the result of an exercise of the English court's general equitable jurisdiction. The orders made recognised that issues would have to be determined by due process of law.

It was not Parliament's intention when enacting section 426 to restrict the jurisdiction or ability of the courts in England to afford assistance to other courts in the UK or other relevant countries and territories.

Cases decided under earlier legislation were all ones where the court exercised general jurisdiction, whereas those decided under section 426 were examples of the court exercising jurisdiction conferred specifically by the Insolvency Act or of its general powers ancillary to such jurisdiction.

It seemed to his Lordship on the first issue of construction that the wording of subsection (10) was such as to supply a complete definition. Thus it stated what the words "insolvency law" meant, not what they included.

Further, the words "provisions made by or under this Act" did not in their normal meaning include provisions made by some quite different Act such as the general power to grant injunctions under section 37 of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

The earlier statutory provisions showed that the jurisdiction that might be exercised was not limited. The position under section 426 was the same.

Reference to "insolvency law" in 426(4) served to identify the courts in any part of the UK on which the obligation to assist was cast. Those courts had their usual jurisdiction and powers and there was nothing in section 426 to exclude either.

The purpose of subsection (5) was not to reduce that jurisdiction or powers but for the purposes of (4) only to extend them. Thus the court in England faced with a request from a relevant country could in respect of the matters specified in the request apply either the insolvency law of the country concerned or its own insolvency law.

Subsection (5) introduced the hypothesis that the matters specified in the request fell within the jurisdiction of the court applying the insolvency law in so far as "comparable matters" would do so.

Thus there was available to the court in England when asked for assistance under section 426, (a) its own general jurisdiction and powers and either (b) the insolvency law of England and Wales or (c) so much of the law of the relevant country as corresponded to that comprised in (b).

In the case of (b) and (c) but not (a) the court in England was entitled to apply such law on the hypothesis as to jurisdiction concerning the matters specified in the request.

It seemed to his Lordship that on that construction the evident intention of Parliament was given effect to without distorting the language of subsection (10). Accordingly his Lordship disagreed with Mr Justice Knox as to the proper construction.

That conclusion largely disposed of the second issue. The purpose of subsection (5) was to extend the jurisdiction of the court.

In relation to the third issue, the obligation to assist was imposed on a court and not some executive agency. The function of the court was to consider whether in accordance with the three sources of law identified as (a), (b) and (c) above the assistance might properly be granted.

His Lordship did not think that the request could ever be conclusive as to the manner in which the court's discretion should be exercised.

The assistance should be given if, in accordance with the law to be applied, the relief sought could properly be granted.

In cases requiring the exercise of a discretion the fact of the request was a weighty matter to be taken into account but it could not outweigh all others.

His Lordship would approve *Re Dallhold, Re BCCI No 9* and *Re Focus Insurance Ltd*.

Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Roch agreed.

Solicitors: Freshfields; Lovell White Durrant.

Appropriate forum for matrimonial case

Butler v Butler

Before Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment February 19]

The test to be applied when deciding on the most appropriate forum in matrimonial proceedings was the statutory test of a balance of fairness including convenience.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing the wife's appeal from the refusal by Judge Goodman, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, on November 30, 1995 to grant a stay in respect of the husband's divorce petition issued in the United Kingdom on March 15, 1995.

The wife had instituted divorce proceedings in Florida on April 27, 1995 and contended that, on the facts, Florida was the more convenient forum.

Mr Thomas Brudenell for the wife; Mr Martin Pointer, QC and Mr Nigel Dyer for the husband.

THE PRESIDENT said that where there were competing petitions for divorce in two jurisdictions, matters were regulated by section 5(6) and paragraph 9(1) of Schedule 1 to the Domicile and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1973.

Although on the facts it was clear that the parties' life together had centred on Florida, the trial judge had erroneously considered, relying on *Chatelard v Chatelard* (unreported, October 24, 1988) that the wife had not shown that the Florida forum was clearly or distinctly more appropriate and had taken into account various irrelevant procedures relating to Florida law.

The statutory discretion could only be set aside if it could be shown the trial judge was plainly wrong.

Here the connection with Florida was so overwhelming that it was cleasrly the appropriate forum. Accordingly, the appeal would be allowed and the English proceedings stayed.

Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Ward delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Fladgate Fielder; Gordon Dadds.

Defects in disciplinary procedure

Jones and Another v Welsh Rugby Football Union

Before Mrs Justice Ebsworth

[Judgment February 27]

It was arguable that failure by a rugby union's disciplinary committee either to allow a player to challenge by question or evidence the factual basis of the allegation against him or to vary its procedures for viewing video evidence without good reason was unfair. A player challenging such unfair treatment should not be suspended from playing pending resolution of the issue.

Mrs Justice Ebsworth so stated in a judgment given in open court at the request of the parties following a hearing in chambers in the Queen's Bench Division when granting Mark Jones, a player with Ebbw Vale RFC, the second plaintiff, an injunction lifting a four-week suspension imposed on December 10, 1996 by the Welsh Rugby Football Union's disciplinary committee. Mr Jones had been sent off for fighting in a match with Swansea RFC on November 9, 1996. He subsequently appeared before a disciplinary committee to make representations concerning the referee's report. The committee imposed a suspension.

Mr William Norris for the plaintiffs; Mr Wyn Williams, QC, for the Welsh RFU.

MRS JUSTICE EBSWORTH said that the plaintiffs complained that the disciplinary proceedings were fundamentally unfair: in summary that the plaintiffs were unrepresented in real terms and that the professional game needed a more formalised procedure.

Mr Norris submitted that in a disciplinary context in professional sport, from which economic and other consequences might flow, representations by lawyers should be an option the Welsh RFU was prepared to consider.

The existing procedures were found in the constitution of the Welsh RFU which devolved power in relation to discipline to a committee operating under resolution 13. The rules gave the committee effectively complete discretion over the form of their own proceedings. The committee might invite attendance or representation and could call witnesses if asked to do so.

The rules were sufficiently wide to enable a response to requests made to them to hear particular witnesses or receive relevant evidence. It was inquisitorial but that did not make it unfair or inadequate to do justice.

Mr Norris did not argue for an adversarial system. He submitted that the present system gave the player no rights. The player was entirely within the hands of the committee. Mr Norris invited the court to look at how the body actually exercised its powers as set out in the procedural document circulated prior to the hearing and to conclude it was lacking in basic fairness.

In her Ladyship's judgment, the issue was whether the committee applied the rules with an undue rigidity and whether or not the rules were unfair. Her Ladyship found that there was nothing in rule 13 requiring the committee to view a film or video of the incident in private.

It was clearly arguable that the committee was wrong to refuse to vary its procedure for no other reason than that it did not do things that way. It seemed to her Ladyship that it was also properly arguable that a system which in effect prohibited a party from challenging by question or by evidence the factual basis of the allegation against him on its face lacked basic fairness.

Her Ladyship was satisfied that those procedural defects, taken in the context of a professional sport amounted to an arguable case that the plaintiffs' right to defend themselves properly and effectively was denied them.

Her Ladyship accepted on the basis of *Ridge v Baldwin* ([1964] AC 40) that to act with such fairness was required of the defendants.

Her Ladyship did not have to go beyond that before deciding whether it was proper to exercise discretion to grant an injunction.

Sport was now big business; many people earned their living from it in one way or another. It would be naïve to pretend that the modern world of sport could be conducted as it used to be not very many years ago. It was not relevant a to express a view as to the conduct the committee dealt with and the merits of the sanction imposed, but it was clear that the result had economic consequences for both plaintiffs.

Applying the well established principles upon which a mandatory injunction could be granted: was the wrong quantifiable in terms that would make damages an adequate remedy?

Loss of wages could be calculated; there were, however, imponderables. It was a case where the practical reality required the suspension to be lifted until the issue was determined between the parties: to do so would not cost the Welsh RFU money.

Her Ladyship would not grant relief to the club because it did not seek representation at the hearing. Her Ladyship would grant interlocutory relief to Mr Jones.

Solicitors: Field Fisher Waterhouse; Hugh James Jones & Jenkins, Cardiff.

Cost of release of covenants deductible

Garner (Inspector of Taxes) v Pounds Shipowners and Shipbreakers Ltd
Same v Pounds

Before Mr Justice Carnwath

[Judgment February 21]

In computing the amount of the chargeable gain accruing from the grant of an option to purchase development land, expenditure incurred by the owners of the land to secure the release of restrictive covenants that affected it was deductible from the amount of the consideration paid to them in return for granting the option.

Mr Justice Carnwath so held in the Chancery Division dismissing the Crown's appeal and upholding, but for different reasons, the determination by Portsmouth general commissioners that £90,000 paid in May 1990 was an allowable deduction in computing the amount of chargeable gains accruing to the taxpayers, Pounds Shipowners and Shipbreakers Ltd and Henry Frederick Pounds. Mr Pounds had died since the hearing before the commissioners and the appeal was being conducted by the executors of his estate.

In 1988 the taxpayers, owners of the land, in consideration for £399,750 granted an option to purchase their shares of the land to Mowat Group plc, the sale price being in excess of £4 million. The option was never exercised.

It was a term of the option agreement that the taxpayers use their best endeavours to procure releases from certain restrictive covenants that affected the land. Failure to obtain the releases would have required repayment of the £399,750 to Mowat.

The taxpayers incurred expenditure of £90,000 on obtaining the releases. The general commissioners held that sum was deductible under section 32 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979.

Mr Michael Furness for the Crown; Mr David Ewart for the taxpayers.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the issue was the correct treatment for capital gains tax purposes of the option price. Section 137(1) of the 1979 Act provided that the grant of an option was the disposal of an asset.

Part II, Chapter II of the Act was concerned with the computation of gains, section 32 setting out amounts allowable as a deduction from the consideration for a disposal.

The implication, although nowhere stated expressly in the Act, was that in a case of an arm's length disposal for monetary consideration, the consideration was the starting point for the computation of the gain.

Aberdeen Construction Group Ltd v IRC ((1978) 52 TC 281) and *Randall v Plumb* ([1975] 1 WLR 633) showed that in identifying the consideration one should look at the particular transaction as a whole to see what the disponor received for the asset.

The Crown's case was that the consideration for the option was that stated in the agreement, £399,750, and the taxpayers could not bring themselves within any provision allowing a deduction to be made for the £90,000.

The truth was, Mr Furness argued, that that sum was money spent in enhancing the value of the land and not of the option and as such would properly be taken into account as a deduction if and when the land was sold.

The commissioners held that the £90,000 should be treated as a deduction under section 32 of the Act but without specifying which limb. Mr Ewart relied on the second part of subsection (1)(a): expenditure wholly and exclusively incurred in providing the asset.

On that argument the Crown was correct. It was not possible to fit the circumstances of the case into any of the section 32 categories. The asset was provided long before the expenditure was incurred. It was spent pursuant to the option but not in providing it.

Mr Ewart's alternative submission depended on the identification of the consideration. He submitted that by analogy with *Randall v Plumb* the onerous obligation under the agreement was to be taken into account in computing the amount of the consideration. Best evidence of the value of the obligation, he said, was the £90,000 actually paid.

That was the correct approach. It was contrary to business reality to have regard only to the nominal consideration stated in the agreement, without regard to the other incidents of the transaction which materially affected the value of that consideration to the grantor.

The value to which the taxpayers were entitled under the option agreement was not £399,750. That nominal entitlement was qualified in two ways: it was dependent on the taxpayers being able to secure release of the covenants and, assuming release, the net consideration in their hands would be the nominal amount less whatever was required to secure that release. That was the value which the taxpayers obtained for the grant of the option.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Warner Goodman & Street, Fareham.

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UCI CINEMAS **Bayswater**, Whiteleys; **Blanchardstown**, New Centre, Dublin; **Bracknell**, Skimped Hill Lane; **Clydebank**, Britannia Way; **Coolock**, Malahide Rd, Dublin; **Derby**, Mansfield Rd; **Gateshead**, Metro Centre; **Hatfield**, Comet Way; **Hull**, St Andrews Quay; **Milton Keynes**, Midsummer Blvd; **Poole**, Mannings Heath; **Dudley**, Brierley Hill; **East Kilbride**, Rothesay St; **Edinburgh**, Newcraighall Rd; **Edmonton**, Picketts Lock Lane; **Portsmouth**, Portway, Cosham; **Preston**, Ashton on Ribble; **Sheffield**, Crystal Peaks; **Solihull**, Highlands Rd; **Sutton**, St Nicholas Way; **Swansea**, Quay Parade; **Tallaght**, Old Blessington Rd, Dublin; **Tamworth**, Boleridge St; **Telford**, Foregate, Town centre; **Warrington**, Cromwell Ave; **Wycombe**, Crest Rd; **West Thurrock**, Lakeside Retail Park. (All UCI shows at 3.30pm)

SHOWCASE **Birmingham**, Kingsbury Rd, Erdington; **Bristol**, St Phillips Causeway; **Coventry**, Gielgud Way, Wasgrave; **Derby**, Ormaston Park Rd; **Glasgow East**, Bargeddie, Baillieston; **Leeds**, Birstall, Nr Batley; **Liverpool**, Norris Green; **Manchester**, Belle Vue; **Nottingham**, Redfield Way, Lenton; **Peterborough**, Mallory Rd; Boongate; **Reading**, Loddon Bride, Reading Rd; **Stockton**, Teeside Leisure Pk; **Walsall**, Bentley Mill Way. (All Showcase previews begin at 3.30pm.)

INDEPENDENTS Cineworld **Stevenage**; Cineworld **Wakefield**; Moviehouse **Belfast**, Yorkgate; Robins **Durham**; Robins **Newbury**.
(All previews at the Independents begin at 3pm except in Belfast where it starts at 3.30pm.)

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الاعلى

RACING

Prime Minister pays tribute to Wyatt's legacy

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR yesterday spoke passionately about racing's special place in the life of the nation — and paid tribute to three of the sport's best known figures.

Whatever his troubles at Westminster and beyond, the Prime Minister won over the hearts of racing's supporters with a sparkling speech, full of humour and wit, at the annual Tote lunch in London — the last to be held under the chairmanship of Lord Wyatt of Weeford, who retires next month after 21 years in the job.

Wyatt was a national institution and had been "an outstanding chairman of the Tote since before the Great Flood," Major joked. "He started the job before some of the Spice Girls had been born and not long since Chelsea most recently won the FA Cup."

The Prime Minister said the peer's imminent retirement marked the passing or an era and he linked it to that of Willie Carson, "one of our greatest jockeys," and Peter O'Sullevan, the "best loved commentator" who steps down later this year. "They leave imperishable memories for those who love racing."

Addressing a lunch attended by an array of Cabinet ministers, past and present, and the equivalent of racing's *Who's Who*, the guest speaker said: "The racing industry has a very special place in the affection of this nation. We love horses and we love the sport of racing. The common passion enjoyed by those on racecourses and in betting shops is shared by millions who watch the sport on television at home.

"Who can forget the memories of the last few months with Frankie Dettori's seven winners; Red Rum, some time ago at Aintree, or Devon Loch rather longer ago: memories that most people who love racing carry with them all the time."

Racing was also big business, especially in rural areas, employing 50,000 people directly and as many indirectly through bookmaking. It was a sizeable export earner. "But perhaps more important it is an integral part of our heritage, national life and international prestige. The Derby, Ascot, the Grand National are known and followed around the world and no-one asks which Derby or which Grand National. They know instinctively because the reputation of British racing travels to every corner of the globe — and rightly so."

The Prime Minister recalled how the Government decided last year not to change the status of the Tote after an investigation. "We were persuaded change was undesirable and after that declaration Woodrow generously removed his fingers from my throat and the Home Secretary's life returned to what approximates as normal."

Clearly enjoying himself, he then poked fun at Labour over the recent debacle involving privatisation plans for the Tote. However, it was light-hearted rather than political point scoring and he congratulated Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary and "hero of the hour", for quashing such plans.

The Tote was a national asset which served the consumer and racing well. "It provides an invaluable service to racecourses, catering for the small-stake punter and those who like to see betting profits go to the benefit of racing. I think we would be wise to treasure that asset and I would like to see the Tote go from strength to strength."

In his speech, Wyatt claimed to have invented a "Superbet" which will soon be available in the growing number of betting shops, including Ladbrokes, which take Tote Direct. It would involve punters having to get the dual forecast right in four designated races. However, the idea is one of several believed to be under discussion.

With the Home Secretary due to announce his successor later this month, Wyatt ridiculed the Nolan-style procedure which candidates have undergone. "The best way of finding a new chairman would be for the outgoing chairman, the chairman of the BHB, the senior steward and the chairman of the Levy Board to agree one."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: RYMING CUPLET
(4.10 Wincanton)
Next best: Campeche Bay
(2.40 Wincanton)

Webber flying high in new role

By Julian Muscat

Paul Webber is convinced his best chance of a winner at Cheltenham rests with Flying Instructor in the Arkle Trophy. Flying Instructor is unlikely to dispense lessons in the art to Mulligan, broadly hailed as a half-brother to the mythical Pegasus, but his engaging of the hot favourite neatly marries Webber's former life to the training career he recently adopted.

Days spent trawling the sales grounds as a bloodstock agent have given way to the early-morning groping of horses' legs — and the prospect of a delicious irony.

"When Mulligan came up for sale Brian Stewart-Brown [owner of Ask Tom and the Oliver Sherwood-trained Large Action] asked me to look at him," Webber, 38, recalled. "So Sherwood and myself inspect him very carefully and tell Brian he isn't big enough to make a chaser. I have since spent the whole season watching Mulligan beat my horses and being reminded of the fact by Brian. I'm sincerely hoping he won't have reason to do it again after the Arkle."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Webber offers encouragement to Flying Instructor, who runs in the Arkle Trophy at Cheltenham next Tuesday

It is perhaps fortunate for Webber's sanity that his Cheltenham squad is small. Defeat is never readily embraced by ambition and Webber-purchased talent now residing with other trainers is quite formidable.

It includes the likes of Collier Bay, Large Action, Juyush, Queen Of Spades, Yahmi, Kerawi, Berude Not To and Ocean Hawk. These horses represent mountainous obstacles for any opponent — never mind the largely unproven inmates at Cropredy Lawn, on the fringes of Banbury.

For the next few seasons Webber must confront these charges with less expensive purchases of his own. Yet he has an edge: few trainers are as comfortable in the maze that is buying unproven stock.

Having wealthy patrons is one thing: spending their money wisely is quite another, as Webber himself realised over 11 years with the Curragh Bloodstock Agency. "Working as an agent helps you discover where to find decent horses. And to be terribly blunt about it," he said, "you learn an awful lot at other people's expense."

He has trawled the sales with all whose opinions are worth heeding. "Us greenhorns would spot a conformation fault in a horse and say we couldn't possibly buy it," he said, "whereas people like Tom Cooper and George Blackwall might say to us: 'Well, I remember Nijinsky had a similar thing and it didn't seem to stop him, did it?' That is what experience is all about: building up a bigger picture."

In the difficult climate of attracting racehorse owners, that experience will have to earn its chance. Although Webber's 44-box yard is all but full, including six or seven two-year-olds to be raced on the Flat, he has yet to buy his first expensive store horse. Besides, the occasion would almost run contrary to the spirit of Cropredy, a 400-acre holding bought in 1955 by Webber's late father, John, to farm for himself.

CHELTENHAM 97 FESTIVAL

Never more than a welcome diversion at that time, racehorses have increasingly featured in the deep jumping roots of the Webber family.

Such a legacy explains why Land Afar, the stable star, is to bypass the Festival. "It is tempting but he is a ten-year-old with a long history of leg problems," Webber said. "It would be irresponsible to run him when conditions are not favourable. It is the same with Credo Is King: we'd love to run him in the National Hunt Chase but the ground will almost certainly be too fast."

Those conditions should admirably suit Flying Instructor, owned and bred by a staunch family supporter in Lady Lyell, for whose family Webber's father rode show ponies more than 60 years ago. "My father always said that every day he spent with horses made him realise how little he really knew. I think all trainers would agree with that, but I must say Flying Instructor is in terrific form at the moment. He has a genuine each-way chance."

Webber cannot disguise his enthusiasm but a sense of realism — largely unknown among second-year trainers — is quick to assert itself. "There are a fair few I've bought for which I'll have to take the blame when they get beaten next week," he reflects. "This time round, I'll have to take the flak for my also-rans as well."

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

2.10 Nordance Prince
2.40 Campeche Bay
3.10 Maestro Paul
3.40 Flying Fiddler
4.10 Ryming Cuplet
4.40 Country Tarquin
5.10 Quiet Arch

Carl Evans: 4.10 Wild Illusion.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-8 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES SIS

2.10 SEAVINGTON MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: £1,913: 2m) (17 runners)

1 0 CLASSIC MODEL 37 (Roan Racing) J Tuck 6-11-5 R Bellamy —
2 3/3355 NORDANCE PRINCE 35 (Pilots Gym) Miss G Kelleway 6-11-5 D Bridgwater 90
3 036-005 REVERSE THRUST 27 (Mrs M Tufnell) P Hedger 6-11-5 M Richards 58
4 0 STONEHENGE SAM 42 (Stonehenge Racing) J Mullins 5-11-5 S Curran —
5 32 TALATHATH 29 (Million In Mind) D Nicholson 5-11-5 R Johnson ⊞
6 0404 THE STUFFED PUFFIN 26 (J Bell) C Mann 5-11-5 J Railton —
7 6-0 ZIDAC 14 (B Brackpool) P Makin 5-11-5 J R Kavanagh 70
8 HONEYSHAN 204F (T Cooper) D French Davis 5-11-0 B Powell —
9 ISIS DAWN (B Darell) A Newcombe 5-11-0 A Thornton —
10 UP ORCHID HOUSE 8 (Ab Kettleby Partners) N Mitchell 5-11-0 D Skyrme —
11 0 PEARL HART 21 (R Vanslembroock) R Phillips 5-11-0 D Fortt (3) —
12 ALSAHIB 124F (Mrs S Livesey) W Muir 4-10-11 B Powell —
13 D GREEN BOPPER 30 (J Cook) C Morlock 4-10-11 C Maude —
14 3 QUALITY 48 (D O'Connor) P Hobbs 4-10-11 G Tormey 94
15 REGAL SPLENDOUR 18F (Miss S Jones) R O'Sullivan 4-10-11 D O'Sullivan —
16 SAMUEL SCOTT 272F (R Green) M Pipe 4-10-11 A P McCoy —
17 STELLAR LINE 9F (D Elsworth) D Elsworth 4-10-11 P Holley —

BETTING: 7-4 Talathath, 4-1 Quality, 5-1 Nordance Prince, 12-1 Stellar Line, Samuel Scott, 14-1 Alsahib, 16-1 others.

1996: MUTAZZ 4-10-10 R Farrant (8-1) W Hern 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

NORDANCE PRINCE about 3l 3rd of 19 to Hoh Warrior in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good), Nov 96. TALATHATH 2l 2nd of 13 to High In The Clouds in maiden hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to firm) THE STUFFED PUFFIN about ¾l 4th of 13 to Point Reyes in National Hunt flat race at Catterick (2m, soft), Dec 96. ZIDAC 25l 7th of 18 to The Flying Phantom in maiden hurdle over course and distance (good) PEARL HEART 28l 8th of 14 to Tristram's Image in maiden hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good). QUALITY 7l 3rd of 16 to Summer Spell in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to firm).
Selection: TALATHATH

2.40 BROADSTONE NOVICES CHASE (£3,548: 2m 5f) (10 runners)

1 5F0/221 FRAZER ISLAND 14 (S) (B Alexander) R Rowe 8-11-10 D O'Sullivan 89
2 23F42U- CAMPECHE BAY 357 (J Kinnear) G Balding 8-11-4 A P McCoy ⊞
3 0-5464F DRESS DANCE 8 (S) (Mrs J Powell) N Mitchell 7-11-4 Sophie Mitchell (5) 82
4 0F0 DUKES CASTLE 19 (A Sim) R Frost 6-11-4 J Frost —
5 060 FULL OF BOUNCE 19 (Fieldspring Racing) R Hodges 6-11-4 T Dascombe (3) —
6 P- LE GRAND LOUP 369 (G Blagbrough) D Hyde 8-11-4 —
7 00-656P PURBECK RAMBLER 6 (V) (Miss M Lane) G Balding 6-11-4 B Fenton —
8 PP2FUU- RAINCHECK 40P (Mrs G Worsley) M Campion 6-11-4 J Railton —
9 6-22F05 REESHLOCH 22 (B,S) (Mrs M Taylor) A Turnell 8-11-4 L Harvey 63
10 56423-0 TRUST DEED 239 (B,F,G) (M Ellicott) S Knight 8-11-4 M Richards 55

BETTING: 7-4 Frazer Island, 5-2 Campeche Bay, 6-1 Reeshloch, 8-1 Dress Dance, 10-1 Raincheck, 12-1 others

1996: GENERAL CRACK 7-11-4 A P McCoy (7-1) P Nicholls 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

FRAZER ISLAND beat Mandys Mantino 2l in 7-runner novice chase at Huntingdon (3m 4f 110yd, good to soft). CAMPECHE BAY 1½l 2nd of 6 to Senor El Betrutti in grade I Scilly Isles novice chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start, Feb 96. DRESS DANCE 14¾l 4th of 9 to Coolteen Hero in novice chase at Plumpton (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start. PURBECK RAMBLER 20¾l 6th of 15 to Cardinal Rule in novice handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, good) on penultimate start. RAINCHECK 2¾l 3rd of 7 to Makin'Doo in point-to-point at Cottenham (3m, good to firm). TRUST DEED 13l 3rd of 11 to Maremma Gale in novice chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, good) on penultimate start, May 96
Selection: FRAZER ISLAND

3.10 WINCANTON LOGISTICS HANDICAP CHASE (£5,215: 2m 5f) (5 runners)

1 6-5P361 SENOR EL BETRUTTI 19 (F,G,S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 8-12-0 G Bradley 97
2 2-1125P FOOLS ERRAND 36 (G,S) (Mrs D Russell) G Balding 7-10-8 A P McCoy 93
3 4/16-211 HAWAIIAN YOUTH 19 (D,F,G,S) (G Redford) G McCourt 9-10-0 D Bridgwater ⊞
4 FF-2441 MAESTRO PAUL 14 (CD,F,G,S) (H Pelham) J Gifford 11-10-0 L Aspell (3) 92
5 5U431P BLACK CHURCH 17 (D,F,S) (B Alexander) R Rowe 11-10-0 D O'Sullivan 93

Long handicap: Hawaiian Youth 9-13, Maestro Paul 9-6, Black Church 9-4

BETTING: 7-4 Senor El Betrutti, 2-1 Hawaiian Youth, 4-1 Maestro Paul, 6-1 Fools Errand, 8-1 Black Church

1996: PASHTO 9-11-12 J Osborne (10-1) N Henderson 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

SENOR EL BETRUTTI beat Southampton 10l in 3-runner handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good). FOOLS ERRAND 4l 2nd of 8 to Distinctive in handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good). HAWAIIAN YOUTH beat Jovial Man neck in 11-runner handicap chase at Windsor (2m 5f, good). MAESTRO PAUL beat Scoloni 2l in 7-runner handicap chase over course and distance (2m 5f, good). BLACK CHURCH beat Master Comedy 7l in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: MAESTRO PAUL

3.40 TOMMY WALLIS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,298: 2m) (4 runners)

1 212326 MORSTOCK 29 (CD,G) (Mrs M Fairbairn) R Hodges 7-11-10 T Dascombe (3) 97
2 11214-1 NORTHERN STARLIGHT 28 (CD,F,G) (A Souch) M Pipe 6-11-6 A P McCoy 97
3 0110-35 MUTAZZ 118 (CD,F,G) (All-Round Partners) W Hern 5-11-0 R Farrant 92
4 4-32441 FLYING FIDDLER 29 (B,F) (M Roberts) M Roberts 6-10-11 P Henley (3) ⊞

BETTING: 11-10 Northern Starlight, 3-1 Flying Fiddler, 4-1 Mutazz, 5-1 Morstock.

1996: MOAT GARDEN 8-10-0 J Osborne (8-1) I Balding 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

MORSTOCK 1¾l 2nd of 5 to Hay Dance in handicap hurdle here (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. NORTHERN STARLIGHT beat Goldingo 9l in 5-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to firm)
MUTAZZ about 6l 3rd of 5 to Peter Monamy in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm). FLYING FIDDLER beat Can Can Charlie 14l in 10-runner conditional handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good to firm) with MORSTOCK (13lb better off) 11¼l 6th
Selection: NORTHERN STARLIGHT (nap)

4.10 DICK WOODHOUSE HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,394: 3m 1f 110yd) (6 runners)

1 1/1P-5P RYMING CUPLET 26P (C,D,F,G,S) (G Tanner) M Trickey 12-12-7 L Jefford (7) ⊞
2 3112-13 WILD ILLUSION 21 (D,BF,F,G,S) Mrs J Pidgeon 13-12-7 R Lawther (7) 97
3 111-3 YOUNG BRAVE 19P (F,G,S) (D Young) Mrs A Young 11-12-7 M G Miller (7) 85
4 0P/0-P2R MEDIANE 6 (V,G,S) (Miss A Wilson) Miss A Wilson 12-12-0 S Andrews (3) 87
5 0/6P TOM'S GEMINI STAR 250 (O Carter) O Carter 9-12-0 E James (7) —
6 1P1- PANDA SHANDY 319P (F,G,S) (Mrs R Woodhouse) J Dufosee 9-11-9 R Nuttall (7) —

BETTING: 5-4 Wild Illusion, 2-1 Young Brave, 5-1 Panda Shandy, 6-1 Ryming Cuplet, 25-1 Mediane, 33-1 Tom's Gemini Star.

1996: COOME HILL 7-12-0 T Dennis (9-2) Mrs J Dennis 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

RYMING CUPLET tailed off behind The Jogger in 8-runner point-to-point at Badbury Rings (3m, good to firm) on penultimate start. WILD ILLUSION 5¾l 3rd of 6 to Mr Boston in hunter chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good)
YOUNG BRAVE beat Rusty Bridge 7l in 8-runner hunter chase at Uttoxeter (4m 2f, good) on penultimate start, May 96. MEDIANE 13l 2nd of 6 to The Jogger in hunter chase at Kempton (3m, good) on penultimate start. TOM'S GEMINI STAR 33¼l 6th of 16 to Birthday Boy in maiden hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start, June 96. PANDA SHANDY beat Silver Concord 3l in 6-runner point-to-point at Tweseldown (3m, good to firm) April 96
Selection: WILD ILLUSION

4.40 SPARKFORD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,320: 2m 6f) (20 runners)

1 241621 GALATASORI JANE 28 (CD,F) (B Bloomer) P Nicholls 7-11-13 L Cummins (7) 94
2 022P/01 QUELQUE CHOSE 31 (D,F,S) (N Stafford) B Meehan 7-11-12 D Gallagher 95
3 2-32422 EHTEFAAL 7 (F) (Mrs M O'Kelly) J King 6-11-10 T J Murphy 90
4 /U-521 PADDYSWAY 17 (CD,F,S) (R Searle) R Buckler 10-11-9 B Powell 97
5 06034-4 CROHANE QUAY 152 (Mrs G Balding) G Balding 8-11-5 Mr A Balding (7) 90
6 1-P SPRING HEBE 99 (S) (B Ryall) B Ryall 7-11-5 Sophie Mitchell (5) 89
7 653435- AN SPAILPIN FANACH 280 (K Styles) D Gandolfo 8-11-5 D Fortt (3) 91
8 25/1-FUP HUGE MISTAKE 27 (B,G) (Windrush Racing) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-4 D Bridgwater 94
9 216/0-P6 MOUNTAIN REACH 27 (F) (G Wilson) P Webber 7-11-4 A Thornton —
10 0231-04 LUCAYAN CAY 14 (C,S) (Joe Cool Partners) Mrs A Bowlby 6-11-3 D Leahy 91
11 040-R05 KILCORAN BAY 24 (V,G,S) (B Edgeley) J Mullins 5-11-3 R Greene 92
12 43P1/P0 NUNS CONE 13 (F,S) (Mrs A O Sullivan) R Peacock 9-10-13 J R Kavanagh —
13 1P-4P2P DARING KING 17 (D,F,S) (Cleeve Stables) M Bolton 7-10-12 L Aspell (3) 98
14 0/663-00 HANGING GROVE 17 (J Forbes) P Murphy 7-10-10 N Mann 88
15 4/064-F0 IMALIGHT 14 (R Frost) R Frost 8-10-9 J Frost 90
16 043-502 APACHEE FLOWER 21 (G) (J Tackley) H Howe 7-10-3 R Johnson 94
17 02-4050 COUNTRY TARQUIN 33 (Mrs C James) R Hodges 5-10-0 T Dascombe (3) ⊞
18 440-PP5 DUNNICKS COUNTRY 28 (F Tucker) F Tucker 7-10-0 M Griffiths (7) —
19 6/0/0P5 CONCINNITY 8 (B Scriven) B Scriven 8-10-0 Mr O McPhail (7) 87
20 405P PROVE THE POINT 94 (Mrs N Duffield) Mrs P Duffield 4-10-0 P Holley 70

Long handicap: Country Tarquin 9-13, Dunnicks Country 9-10, Concinnity 9-3, Prove The Point 8-9

BETTING: 4-1 Galatasori Jane, 5-1 Paddysway, 6-1 Ehtefaal, 8-1 Quelque Chose, Crohane Quay, 10-1 An Spailpin Fanach, 12-1 others

1996: LUGS BRANNIGAN 7-11-2 Katharine Hambidge (12-1) M Bradstock 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

GALATASORI JANE beat Tremplin 1¾l in 14-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) with DUNNICKS COUNTRY (20lb better off) tailed off. QUELQUE CHOSE beat Do Be Ware 11l in selling handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm). EHTEFAAL 1¾l 2nd of 12 to Grunge in handicap hurdle at Towcester (3m, soft) on penultimate start, with MOUNTAIN REACH (6lb better off) 40l 6th and HUGE MISTAKE (10lb better off) pulled up. PADDYSWAY beat Reluctano ¾l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, soft) with DARING KING (4lb better off) pulled up. CROHANE QUAY 8½l 4th of 12 to Embley Buoy in novice handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good). APACHEE FLOWER 12l 2nd of 15 to Maid Equal in handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good)
Selection: GALATASORI JANE

5.10 SEAVINGTON MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £1,900: 2m) (17 runners)

1 4 ALTHREY PILOT 27 (R Lloyd) A Turnell 6-11-5 L Harvey 81
2 0 BEWELDERED 117 (P Joch) R Frost 5-11-5 J Frost —
3 4 EMBANKMENT 14 (Lady Tennant) N Henderson 7-11-5 Mr C Vigors (5) ⊞
4 P JOBIE 21 (Rags To Richards Partners) R Phillips 7-11-5 D Bridgwater —
5 60- KEDWICK 63F (Mrs J Griffiths) P Hedger 8-11-5 G Bradley —
6 3345R0- LITTLE ELLIOT 334 (G) (Dedra Lighting Systems) S Earle 9-11-5 C Maude —
7 00-0P PIPER'S ROCK 15 (Mrs G Balding) G Balding 6-11-5 Mr A Balding (7) —
8 1300 PROTOTYPE 14 (F) (R Holt) G Johnson Houghton 6-11-5 A Thornton 72
9 RING OF VISION 147F (H Bray) C Mann 5-11-5 J Railton —
10 F/0 VANBOROUGH LAD 21 (A Galbraith) M Bolton 8-11-5 T Dascombe (3) —
11 1- COOL VIRTUE 306 (F) (S Lambert) I Forster 6-11-0 —
12 50- VIKING DREAM 369 (Mr M Mulcahy) I Fox 5-11-0 S Fox —
13 50F WEST BAY BREEZE 6 (Samways Fish Merchants) R Buckler 5-11-0 B Powell —
14 GENEREUX 556F (J Cook) S Mellor 4-10-11 N Mann —
15 0 MUHTADI 27 (C I G S Partners) Lady Herries 4-10-11 R Johnson 81
16 QUIET ARCH 16F (J Davies) W Muir 4-10-11 M Richards —
17 0 WHITE PLAINS 44 (P Lake) M Pipe 4-10-11 A P McCoy —

BETTING: 3-1 Embankment, 4-1 Cool Virtue, 6-1 Althrey Pilot, White Plains, 10-1 Ring Of Vision, 14-1 others

1996: MUTAZZ 4-10-10 R Farrant (8-1) W Hern 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALTHREY PILOT 16½l 4th of 12 to Darakshan in novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good). EMBANKMENT 9¼l 4th of 18 to The Flying Phantom in maiden hurdle over course and distance (good) with PROTOTYPE 28½l 12th. KEDWICK 24l 8th of 20 to Jacob's Wife in novice hurdle at Worcester (2m, good) April 95. COOL VIRTUE beat Wynyard Lady 3¼l in 16-runner National Hunt flat race at Hereford (2m 1f, firm). VIKING DREAM 18½l 5th of 23 to Shannons Lady in maiden hurdle at Fairyhouse (2m, good to yielding), Dec 95. WHITE PLAINS 20l 9th of 19 to Night Dance in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good)
Selection: ALTHREY PILOT

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Lady Herries	4	10	40.0	G Bradley	8	39	20.5
M Pipe	40	143	28.0	D Skyrme	3	15	20.0
D Gandolfo	7	32	21.9	A P McCoy	13	74	17.6
N Twiston-Davies	10	50	20.0	R Farrant	7	51	13.7
A Turnell	8	42	19.0	C Maude	9	66	13.6

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Carlisle: 3.30 Master Of Troy, 5.00 Chan Move. Towcester: 2.20 Wickens One. Wincanton: 4.40 Huge Mistake.

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
CARLISLE 101 201
WINCANTON 102 202
TOWCESTER 103 203
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Blow for Brooks

COULDNT BE BETTER, the Charlie Brooks-trained gelding, will miss the Cheltenham Gold Cup after a scan showed he injured a tendon in the Greenalls Grand National Trial at Haydock last month.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Bangor

Going: good to soft, soft in places

2.10 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Darakshan (J Culloty, 8-11 fav); 2, Zander (7-1); 3, Morpheus (15-8). 14 ran. ¾l, hd. Miss H Knight. Tote £1.60; £1.10, £1.10, £1.50. DF: £4.50. Trio: £1.50. CSF: £6.70.

2.40 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Highway Five (Miss E James, 20-1); 2, Teatrader (7-1); 3, Cape Cottage (5-4 fav). 6 ran. Sh hd, 7l. Lady Susan Brooke. Tote: £30.30; £7.40, £3.40. DF £42.80. CSF £118.59.

3.10 (2m 1f ch) 1, Indian Jockey (A P McCoy, 4-9 fav); 2, The Secret Grey (20-1); 3, Santaray (5-1). 8 ran. 9l, hd. M Pipe. Tote £1.30; £1.10, £1.80, £1.30. DF: £7.70. CSF: £10.38.

3.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Knight In Side (C Maude, 10-1); 2, Edward Seymour (16-1); 3, A S Jim (20-1). Ramsdens 11-4 fav. 17 ran. NR: Admiral's Guest, Espla. 11l, 13l. M Pipe. Tote: £14.30; £3.10, £11.60, £5.60. DF: £127.70. Trio: £325.50 (part won. Pool of £412.65 carried forward to 4.40 at Wincanton today). CSF: £138.33.

4.10 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Cariboo Gold (J Osborne, 4-5 fav); 2, Calleva Star (9-2); 3, Rubins Boy (33-1). 14 ran. NR: Garethson. 3l, 25l. K Bailey. Tote £1.70; £1.70, £1.50, £10.10. DF: £4.00. Trio: £93.70. CSF: £4.37. Tricast: £69.63.

4.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Lough Tully (J Osborne, 6-4 fav; Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Snowshill Shaker (12-1); 3, Luke Warm (15-2). 13 ran. 10l, 3½l. F Jordan. Tote £2.50; £1.40, £2.20, £1.60. DF: £43.10. Trio: £61.70. CSF: £19.33. Tricast: £107.78.

Jackpot: £17,186.90.

Placepot: £394.60. Quadpot: £36.80.

Catterick Bridge

Going: good to soft

1.55 (2m hdle) 1, Radmore Brandy (G Lee, 7-1); 2, Noir Esprit (15-8 fav); 3, Fiasco (14-1). 12 ran. 7l, 18l. G Richards. Tote: £9.90; £2.60, £1.10, £7.60. DF: £8.60. Trio: £39.20. CSF: £20.13.

2.25 (2m hdle) 1, Cumbrian Maestro (R Garritty, 4-9 fav); 2, Oversman (7-1); 3, Undawaterscubadiva (10-1). 13 ran. 9l, 3l. T Easterby. Tote £1.60; £1.30, £1.80, £2.10. DF £4.80. Trio: £13.60. CSF: £4.45.

3.00 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Sayin Nowt (Mr A Parker, 5-2 fav); 2, Greenmount Lad (20-1); 3, Admission (8-1). 10 ran. 3½l, 2l. K Anderson. Tote: £3.20; £1.10, £5.00, £2.30. DF £140.20. Trio £158.80. CSF £49.57.

3.30 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Karenastino (R Wilkinson, 8-1); 2, Kings Sermon (3-1); 3, Tico Gold (9-2). Bold Account 13-8 fav. 8 ran. NR: King Of Steel. Nk, 6l. Mrs S Smith. Tote £7.50; £2.00, £1.80, £1.40. DF: £11.30. Trio £13.20. CSF £31.17. Tricast: £112.94.

4.00 (2m 3f hdle) 1, Major Yaasi (A Dobbin, 14-1); 2, Fryup Satellite (7-1); 3, Mrs Jawleyford (7-1); 4, First In The Field (9-1). Court Joker 6-1 fav (pu). 18 ran. 5l, 8l. J Glover. Tote £25.30; £8.30, £1.30, £1.70, £1.60. DF: £79.00. Trio £323.50 (part won. Pool of £109.37 carried forward to 4.40 at Wincanton today). CSF £98.16. Tricast £698.87.

4.30 (2m 3f ch) 1, Roberty Lea (P Niven, 4-5 fav); 2, Tepaarch (4-1); 3, Monkey Wench (6-1). 8 ran. ¾l, 13l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.60, £1.60. DF £4.20. CSF. £4.17.

5.00 (2m flat) 1, Easby Blue (P Niven, Evens fav); 2, Going Primitive (15-2); 3, Eastcliffe (9-2). 9 ran. 7l, 10l. S Kettlewell. Tote £1.60; £1.10, £1.90, £2.50. DF £8.20. Trio £43.10. CSF £9.66.

Placepot: £26.40. Quadpot: £11.80.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

1.50 (6f) 1, Another Nightmare (Mrs C Williams, 20-1); 2, Astral Invader (14-1); 3, Ring The Chief (9-2). Leigh Crofter 9-4 fav. 10 ran. 1½l, hd. R McKellar. Tote. £13.90; £2.60, £3.10, £4.50. DF £135.90. Trio: £160.30 (part won. Pool of £180.70 carried forward to 4.40 at Wincanton today). CSF: £265.63. Tricast. £1,396.15.

2.20 (6f) 1, Takhlid (Miss R Clark, 14-1); 2, Dancing Sioux (10-1); 3, Lochon (16-1). Mustang 6-4 fav. 10 ran. 1l, hd. D Chapman. Tote £18.50; £4.70, £2.60, £4.20. DF £74.20. Trio not won (pool of £236.90 carried forward to 4.40 at Wincanton today). CSF £142.10. Tricast £2,087.22.

2.50 (1m 100yd) 1, Sword Arm (T Sprake, Evens fav); 2, Little Acorn (12-1); 3, Only Josh (14-1). 9 ran. 1l, 3l. R Charlton. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £3.20, £1.60. DF £21.00. Trio: £20.80. CSF £14.89.

3.20 (1m 100yd) 1, Globetrotter (D McKeown, 3-1); 2, Foot Battalion (9-1); 3, Milroy (15-2). Don Sebastian 5-4 fav. 8 ran. 2½l, ¾l. M Johnston. Tote. £5.10; £1.80, £1.70, £1.90. DF £10.00. CSF £31.32. Tricast £181.63.

3.50 (1m 4f) 1, Albaha (R Mullen, 2-1 fav); 2, Major Change (9-2); 3, China Castle (10-1). 8 ran. NR: Leading Spirit. ¾l, 7l. J Banks. Tote £3.00; £1.20, £2.30, £1.90. DF: £7.70. Trio £43.10. CSF: £12.50. Tricast: £75.32.

4.20 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, Soldier Cove (D Sweeney, 13-2); 2, Northern Fan (11-4); 3, David James' Girl (3-1). Sarasi 2-1 fav. 9 ran. NR: Fiaba. 2½l, ¾l. M Meade. Tote £9.40; £2.10, £1.10, £1.30. DF £7.50. Trio: £6.90. CSF £24.30.

4.50 (5f) 1, Gi La High (D Sweeney, 5-1); 2, Aljaz (5-1); 3, Needle Match (11-2). Madonna 9-2 fav. 13 ran. ¾l, 2l. M Meade. Tote £5.70; £2.30, £2.00, £2.30. DF £20.90. Trio £182.10. CSF £31.04. Tricast £140.29.

Placepot: £1,026.60. Quadpot: £10.50.

TOWCESTER

THUNDERER

2.20 Hancock. 2.50 Brogeen Lady. 3.20 Teaplanter. 3.50 **KONVEKTA QUEEN** (nap). 4.20 Simpson. 4.50 Simply.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.50 **KONVEKTA QUEEN.**

Carl Evans: 3.20 Teaplanter.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT, HEAVY IN PLACES (HURDLES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.20 BANQUE ARJIL ESPANA NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (Conditional jockeys: £2,460: 3m) (15 runners)

101 4530 ROSS DANCER 36 J Moore 5-11-10 J Magee 85
102 4540 EVEZIO RUFO 49 (V,BF) N Littmoden 5-11-9 D J Kavanagh 93
103 5P50 ROSEHALL 13 (F) Mrs T Pilkington 6-11-7 L Suthern (3) 89
104 -001 FANCY NANCY 17 (S) Miss C Johnsey 6-11-4 Michael Brennan 93
105 P01U KILLING TIME 8 (BF,F,S) D Burchell 6-11-1 J Prior (5) 98
106 0-F2 HANCOCK 16 J Hetherton 5-11-1 J Power (3) ⊞
107 -302 CARDINAL GAYLE 17 (BF) R Alner 7-11-0 D Walsh 89
108 430S KAREN'S TYPHOON 22 T McGovern 6-10-11 M Batchelor (5) 88
109 6024 WINTER ROSE 17 Miss P Wallis 6-10-11 K Hibbert (5) 97
110 4334 ONE MORE DIME 17 J Needham 7-10-9 A Bates 93
111 0-6U MYSTIC COURT 19 A Turnell 6-10-7 C Rae 97
112 6235 ARDENT LOVE 27 D Nicholson 8-10-7 R Massey 90
113 P-05 WICKENS ONE 17 (B) D Geraghty 7-10-4 G Supple 93
114 4003 OTTER PRINCE 17 (B) T George 8-10-0 C Hynes (7) —
115 0326 LOVELARK 35 R Lee 8-10-0 X Aizpuru (3) 88

5-1 Fancy Nancy, 6-1 Ardent Love, Cardinal Gayle, 8-1 Evezio Rufo, Winter Rose, 10-1 Hancock, One More Dime, 12-1 others.

2.50 JOHN WEBBER MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE (£3,379: 2m 6f) (12)

201 000/ ARDSCUD 1058 M Bradstock 10-11-3 W Marston —
202 PP00 BALLYDOUGAN 19 (V) R Mathew 9-11-3 D Walsh —
203 1-33 HIM OF PRAISE 19 (S) O Sherwood 7-11-3 J Osborne ⊞
204 PP05 MAJOR NOVA 9 (G,S) N Smith 8-11-3 J Culloty —
205 5-PP MYSTIC MANNA 19 A Turnell 11-11-3 G Crone 74
206 P25- SENNA BLUE 302 R Pugh 12-11-3 M Sharratt —
207 P-PR SWIFT POKEY 9 D Williams 7-11-3 M Clarke —
208 F534 THE BOOLEY HOUSE 19 V Soane 7-11-3 D Byrne 98
209 -44U THERMAL WARRIOR 24 (S) J Old 9-11-3 G Upton 72
210 0000 BECKY'S GIRL 26 R Brotherton 7-10-12 Guy Lewis (3) —
211 26FF BROGEEN LADY 8 D Gandolfo 7-10-12 J F Titley 98
212 -332 COUNTRY STORE 80 (S) A Jones 8-10-12 S McNeill 93

6-4 Him Of Praise, 4-1 Country Store, 9-2 Brogeen Lady, 8-1 Thermal Warrior, 10-1 Mystic Manna, 12-1 The Booley House, 20-1 others

3.20 BANQUE ARJIL ITALIA HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,501: 3m 1f) (7)

301 4-24 TEAPLANTER 13 (CD,G,S) Miss C Saunders 14-12-6 B Pollock (5) ⊞
302 41-P WHAT A TO DO 18P (F,S) C Sweeting 13-12-6 Miss L Sweeting (7) 76
303 1FP- DIRECT 322 (S) T George 14-12-2 T Edwards (7) 75
304 P-P1 FIDDLERS PIKE 12P (C,D,S) Mrs R Henderson 16-11-12 Mrs R Henderson (7) —
305 36 LURRIGA GLITTER 7 R Smith 9-11-12 S Joynes (7) 69
306 4/PP MAJOR MAC 8 D Williams 10-11-12 S Durack (7) —
307 /003 SOLAR GEM 12P (G) J Mason 10-11-12 Mrs C McCarthy (7) —

4-7 Teaplanter, 7-1 Direct, 8-1 Lurriga Glitter, 10-1 What A To Do, 12-1 others

3.50 HOECHST ROUSSEL PANACUR EBF MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,157: 2m 5f) (10)

401 P152 KONVEKTA QUEEN 17 (F) O Sherwood 6-11-0 J Osborne ⊞
402 3321 LADY HIGH SHERIFF 14 (S) T Forster 7-11-0 N Williamson 91
403 /P3- FINAL ROSE 319P R Smith 7-10-7 D Walsh —
404 05 FUN WHILE IT LASTS 24 T Forster 6-10-7 C Llewellyn —
405 221/ KING'S RAINBOW 697P (G) Mrs D Haine 8-10-7 J F Titley —
406 4303 KOSHEEN 24 Miss H Knight 6-10-7 J Culloty 74
407 03P2 MAYLIN MAGIC 24 T Casey 6-10-7 J A McCarthy 82
408 -0P0 MISS MYLETTE 22 D Wintle 6-10-7 W Marston 55
409 PINXTON PENNY J Mackie 5-10-7 T Eley —
410 0-P RED RIVER 27 C Drewe 6-10-7 Mr R Thornton (5) —

2-1 Lady High Sheriff, 5-2 Konvekta Queen, 4-1 Maylin Magic, 6-1 Kosheen, 8-1 King's Rainbow, 16-1 Fun While It Lasts, 20-1 others

4.20 BANQUE ARJIL & COMPAGNIE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,527: 3m 1f) (9)

501 54-0 SCRIBBLER 19 (B,G,S) G McCourt 11-12-0 R Hobson (7) —
502 530- TARAMOSS 383 (C,S) T George 10-11-11 N Williamson 89
503 -P61 CELTIC BARLE 14 (G,S) H Hodge 13-10-13 S McNeill ⊞
504 40P3 SOLO GENT 14 (F,G,S) A Jones 8-10-4 D Byrne 98
505 8550 HOLY STING 19 (B,S) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-3 C Llewellyn 95
506 5-13 SIMPSON 9 (BF,F,G,S) J Old 12-10-2 G Upton 91
507 -P34 CARLINGFORD LAKES 43 (S) T Thomson Jones 9-10-0 J Culloty 95
508 5640 SHAMARPHIL 19 (F,S) R Alner 11-10-0 Miss S Barraclough 80
509 421/ PRIMITIVE SINGER 727 (F,S) J Pickering 9-10-0 W Marston —

5-2 Simpson, 3-1 Celtic Barle, 7-2 Solo Gent, 7-1 Taramoss, 8-1 others.

4.50 BANQUE ARJIL POLSKA HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,609: 2m) (4)

601 -223 SIMPLY 192 (D,F,G,S) T McGovern 8-11-10 J Osborne ⊞
602 -1P4 WASSL STREET 16 (S) K Morgan 5-11-10 N Williamson 84
603 5-05 HARLEQUIN CHORUS 27 J Old 7-11-1 G Upton 87
604 6-0F KARLINE KA 24 (D,S) R Dickin 6-11-0 X Aizpuru (7) —

6-4 Wassl Street, 2-1 Simply, 7-2 Harlequin Chorus, 7-1 Karline Ka

COURSE SPECIALISTS

CARLISLE: Trainers: Mrs M Reveley, 30 winners from 101 runners, 29.7%; J Jefferson, 14 from 48, 29.2%; Mrs A Swinbank, 9 from 36, 25.0%; J Fitzgerald, 7 from 29, 24.1%; G Richards, 35 from 163, 21.5%; A Whillans, 3 from 18, 16.7%. Jockeys: P Niven, 32 winners from 115 rides, 27.8%; P Carberry, 6 from 24, 25.0%; A Dobbin, 24 from 122, 19.7%; J Burke, 7 from 41, 17.1%; J Callaghan, 8 from 50, 16.0%.

TOWCESTER: Trainers: Miss C Saunders, 12 winners from 19 runners, 63.2%; D Nicholson, 25 from 63, 39.7%; T Thomson Jones, 6 from 28, 21.4%; Mrs D Haine, 5 from 30, 16.7%; J Old, 7 from 43, 16.3%; D Gandolfo, 7 from 44, 15.9%. Jockeys: J Culloty, 3 winners from 11 rides, 27.3%; D Byrne, 3 from 13, 23.1%; J Titley, 4 from 20, 20.0%; N Williamson, 9 from 55, 16.4%; W Marston, 10 from 73, 13.7%

CARLISLE

THUNDERER

2.00 Pebble Beach. 2.30 Pariah. 3.00 Prime Example. 3.30 Solomon's Dancer. 4.00 Enchanted Cottage. 4.30 Ceilidh Boy. 5.00 Linwood.

GOING: HEAVY SIS
8AM PRECAUTIONARY INSPECTION

2.00 BORDER ESK NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,416: 3m 110yd) (13 runners)

1 332F PEBBLE BEACH 38 (F) G Moore 7-11-10 J Callaghan
2 PP0P ANSURO AGAIN 7 Mrs M Reveley 8-11-2 P Niven
3 30/P SANDRIFT 30 C Parker 8-11-1 D Parker
4 42F1 PARADE RACER 35 (S) P Murphy 6-10-13 W McFarland
5 -0P6 PHARRAMBLING 8 Mrs M Reveley 6-10-13 G Lee (3)
6 1260 JONAEM 78 (C,F) Mrs E Slack 7-10-12 K Johnson
7 -530 MRS ROBINSON 18 J Mackie 6-10-11 E Husband (3)
8 F030 DIDDY RYMER 9 Mrs S Smith 7-10-10 R Guest
9 -255 DASHMAR 45 (V) Ms L Plater 10-10-3 D Bentley
10 -305 BLACK ICE 26 T Tate 6-10-2 R Supple
11 0060 SKI PATH 19 N Bycroft 8-10-0 M Foster
12 -000 WILLIE WANNABE 96 Mrs D Thomson 7-10-0 B Storey
13 5P/P STRONG CHARACTER 26 (S) D Lamb 11-10-0 J Burke

3-1 Pebble Beach, 6-1 Mrs Robinson, 7-1 Sandrift, Parade Racer, 8-1 Pharrambling, Jonaem, 10-1 others

2.30 DERWENT HANDICAP CHASE (£2,696: 2m) (7)

1 35F3 BLAZING TRAIL 21 (D,S) Miss L Russell 9-12-0 T Reed
2 1-15 GROUSE-N-HEATHER 10 (D,F,S) P Monteith 8-11-9 A Dobbin
3 -325 PARIAH 6 (D,BF,S) M Todhunter 8-11-6 P Carberry
4 -042 CHILL WIND 9 (BF,F,G) N Bycroft 8-11-2 M Foster
5 682P REBEL KING 9 (D,F,G) M Barnes 7-10-13 S Taylor (5)
6 5080 SUPER SANDY 23 (D,S) F Walton 10-10-1 K Johnson
7 U6FP QUIXALL CROSSETT 7 (B) E Cahill 12-10-0 M Moloney

5-2 Chill Wind, 11-4 Pariah, 4-1 Rebel King, 9-2 Grouse-N-Heather, 6-1 Blazing Trail, 20-1 Super Sandy, 66-1 Quixall Crossett

3.00 GOLDEN PHEASANT, YOUNGERS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,528: 2m 4f 110yd) (16)

1 34/1 INTO THE WEST 7 (D,S) Mrs S Smith 8-11-8 R Guest
2 01U4 BOLD STATEMENT 10 (G) G Moore 5-11-2 N Bentley
3 0P BORDER IMAGE 23 F Murtagh 6-11-2 E Callaghan (3)
4 -403 JAYFCEE 30 M Bielby 5-11-2 T Reed
5 003 JENNIE'S PROSPECT 9 J J O'Neill 6-11-2 R McGrath (5)
6 0050 LARKSHILL 42 J Fitzgerald 6-11-2 P Niven
7 5 MIKE STAN 10 L Lungo 6-11-2 R Supple
8 000 MONTEIN 31 S Leadbetter 6-11-2 N Leach
9 00/6 NASAYER 9 N Mason 7-11-2 S Haworth (7)
10 3-00 NOSMO KING 9 Mrs M Kendall 6-11-2 Mrs M Kendall
11 2 PRIME EXAMPLE 23 M Todhunter 6-11-2 P Carberry
12 -420 SIR BOB 12 W McKeown 5-11-2 G Cahill
13 6/15 THE KHOINOA 38 (G) Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-2 J Supple
14 3362 ARDRINA 14 F Murphy 6-10-11 A Dobbin
15 PEAK A BOO D Whillans 6-10-11 D Bentley
16 /0-P THROWEDOWNSOMETING 26 Mrs D Thomson 7-10-11 B Storey

3-1 Ardrina, 5-1 Prime Example, 6-1 Sir Bob, 7-1 Into The West, 10-1 Bold Statement, 12-1 Jayfcee, 14-1 Jennie's Prospect, 16-1 others

3.30 EDINBURGH WOOLLEN MILL NOVICES CHASE (£4,443: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

1 1122 SOLOMON'S DANCER 70 (CD,F,G) G Richards 7-11-13 A Dobbin
2 2122 KENMORE-SPEED 12 (F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 10-11-3 R Guest
3 5-64 MASTER OF TROY 12 (B,F,G,S) C Parker 9-11-3 D Parker
4 U4FU NIJWAY 2 (S) M Barnes 7-11-3 S Taylor (5)

2-5 Solomon's Dancer, 3-1 Kenmore-Speed, 8-1 Master Of Troy, 20-1 Nijway

4.00 WAVER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,318: 2m 1f) (13)

1 -000 FOX SPARROW 8 (S) N Tinkler 7-11-10 E Husband (3)
2 1-20 MERRY MERMAID 8 (BF,S) B Mactaggart 7-11-6 S Melrose
3 -242 SUPREME SOVIET 10 A Whillans 7-11-4 S Taylor
4 6304 GLENUGIE 12 (D,F,S) G Moore 6-11-2 N Hannity (10)
5 3-44 OUR ROBERT 8 (S) J Fitzgerald 5-11-2 F Leahy (3)
6 5333 IFALLELSEFAILS 6 (F) L Lungo 9-11-0 I Jardine (8)
7 2FF5 HIGHLAND WAY 76 (G) M Todhunter 9-11-0 C McCormack (8)
8 1502 ETERNAL CITY 22 (D,G) G Richards 6-10-12 R Burns (8)
9 -4F0 PAPPA CHARLIE 19 C Parker 6-10-6 G Lee
10 61-P KIRSTENBOSCH 26 (CD,F,G) L Lungo 10-10-4 W Dowling (8)
11 5-12 ENCHANTED COTTAGE 7 (BF,G) J Jefferson 5-10-2 E Callaghan (3)
12 4-10 APOLLO'S DAUGHTER 26 (F) J Goulding 9-10-0 B Grattan
13 0000 SEE YOU ALWAYS 38 (F) D Moffatt 7-10-0 I Pike (10)

9-2 Supreme Soviet, 5-1 Our Robert, Enchanted Cottage, 7-1 Merry Mermaid, 8-1 Glenugie, 10-1 Ifallelsefails, Highland Way, 12-1 others.

4.30 EDEN HANDICAP CHASE (£3,623: 3m 2f) (4)

1 -2P4 UBU VAL 51 (D,F,G,S) W Bethell 11-12-0 B Storey
2 04U2 CEILIDH BOY 6 (V,C,F,G,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 11-11-13 Mr R Hale
3 /0-F ACAJOU III 28 (S) G Richards 9-11-6 P Carberry
4 0-12 NORTHERN SQUIRE 10 (C,G,S) J Jefferson 9-11-1 E Callaghan (3)

5-4 Acajou III, 3-1 Ceilidh Boy, 7-2 Northern Squire, 4-1 Ubu Val.

5.00 LIDDEL WATER INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,172: 2m 1f) (12)

1 1 TOM'S RIVER 30 (CD,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-11 G Lee (3)
2 00 CHAN MOVE 9 (B) W Smith 5-11-4 S Taylor (5)
3 0 JUMBO'S DREAM 30 J Dixon 6-11-4 F Perratt
4 40 JUST NED 23 J Haldane 6-11-4 B Storey
5 SMILE PLEEZE Mrs M Stirk 5-11-4 M Foster
6 00 SNOOTY ESKIMO 47 J Haldane 5-11-4 E Callaghan (3)
7 0 SUPEREXALT 30 J Fitzgerald 5-11-4 W Dwan
8 0 WOODHOUSE LANE 41 N Chamberlain 5-11-4 Miss C Metcalfe (7)
9 0 GYMCRAK-GYPSY 44 G Holmes 5-10-13 R Garritty
10 40 LINWOOD 12 G Richards 6-10-13 A Dobbin
11 66 COOL KEVIN 9 Mrs M Kendall 4-10-10 Mrs M Kendall
12 55 SIDE BY SIDE 12 C Thornton 4-10-5 N Horrocks (7)

5-4 Tom's River, 9-2 Linwood, 6-1 Side By Side, 7-1 Superexalt, 10-1 others

FOOTBALL: TOTTENHAM END DEPRESSING SLIDE TO INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON SUNDERLAND

Iversen has look back to make leap forward

By Peter Ball

IF Tottenham Hotspur's final visit to Roker Park on Tuesday night had ended in defeat, it could have marked the start of the north London club's decline into the relegation zone. Instead, their victory left Sunderland's home record as the tightest defence in the FA Carling Premiership in tatters and suggested that Tottenham are not so far away from recapturing old glories.

With Steffen Iversen, their young and, at £2.75 million, comparatively cheap Norwegian striker scoring a memorable hat-trick, Tottenham looked a class above Sunderland and appeared capable of scoring at will.

"We've talked a lot about the season and injuries, but this was the first time that John Scales, Steffen Iversen, Darren Anderton and Teddy Sheringham have played together in the three months we have had Scales," Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, said. On this form, with the remaining injury victims — Armstrong, Vega, Mabbutt, Fox and Sinton — to return to add depth to the squad, Tottenham look a formidable force for next season.

Francis: high praise

Even without them, they destroyed Sunderland with some exhilarating football in the best Tottenham tradition and looked as good as any leading Premiership team.

"What I've been saying, which is difficult when you are going against the wind, is that our performances in recent matches have not been reflected in results," Francis said. "I thought we should have beaten Forest 4-1 or 5-1 on Saturday, but we didn't. Steffen will probably tell you he had better chances then, but they didn't go in.

"He is a very talented boy. Everything had gone superbly well for him through his career, but he's come here, he has played ever so well, created chances, got chances, but for one reason or another they hadn't gone in and, probably for the first time in his career, he was feeling a bit low on confidence.

"So I sat him down on Monday and showed him the videos I had made of him when I was watching him — showed him the way the goals flew in and things he did. He gave a little smile. I don't know whether it made any difference, but today they have gone in for him."

Iversen took his goals with the certainty of a born scorer, the shot for his third goal struck with power and a high technique from 30 yards that revealed a young player of huge promise.

"If Chris Armstrong had been fit, we might have been able to introduce him a bit more quietly, but he's had to come in and play, mainly with Rory Allen or Neale Fenn," Francis said. "But he's an exceptional talent and playing with Teddy, or Chris, he's going to learn a great deal."

Whether he will learn much playing against Premiership defences like Sunderland's is another matter. Iversen could have been pitting his skills against Ferrara and Peruzzi, of Juventus, last night in the European Cup, but money talked and he left Rosenborg, of Norway, for Tottenham. On this performance, he might be back on the European stage earlier than seemed likely a week ago.

His job on Tuesday night was helped by Sunderland's defensive disarray, a new and worrying development for Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager. He started the game with two forwards and a three-man defence, an attacking formation that was prompted by Sunderland's lack of goals that, up until this match, had been Reid's main cause for concern.

Reid's side had scored once in their previous six games and, indeed, a Sunderland player has yet to score at Roker this year. Their only goal at home in 1997 came from Tony Adams, of Arsenal.

This poor form in front of goal is the main reason why Sunderland are facing the prospect of relegation after just one season back in the top flight.

PHIL COLE / ALLSPORT

Iversen, who scored a hat-trick for Tottenham, loses this aeriel battle with Ord, the Sunderland defender

Old Firm inspire global warming

By Our Sports Staff

IT WAS probably the late Jock Wallace, a legendary Rangers manager, who once insisted that if the Old Firm were to meet at the North Pole at midnight, it would still be a sell-out. The suspicion lurks that if television was willing to pay for it, such a match could be arranged.

Even though the Tennents Scottish Cup quarter-final tonight will take place at the more likely venue of Celtic Park, the Glasgow derby does indeed have a global perspective.

Tony Innes, for instance, hopes to go to work with a smile tomorrow morning, replete from a 90-minute breakfast in front of the television and, he expects, a Celtic victory.

Adelaide-based Innes is the chairman of the South Australia Celtic Supporters' Association. He last saw them in real-life action in the 1989 Scottish Cup final.

"Hopefully that will be an omen," he said. "We won 1-0 with a goal from Joe Miller. I'll be watching on Friday, even though for us the kick-off is something like 5.30am. Normally about 45 of us get together at a pub to watch matches on Fox, the pay-TV channel. We get a full Scottish game once a week from the previous weekend but there haven't been too many with Celtic in recent weeks.

"We watched the Old Firm game at new year in a bar which opened for us specially at 5am and served breakfast. This week I'll have a few of the guys round the house and then go off to work.

"We run three teams and play the Rangers supporters every year," he said. "As you can imagine, the new year game here is usually played in around 35 degrees heat. Not the best when you have a hangover, but we won it this year; I think it was 7-2."

Even thousands of miles from home, Innes admits that he and others cannot shed the Old Firm rivalry, although he keeps in touch with his Rangers counterpart in Adelaide.

"I'm quite friendly with Albert Wilson, chairman of the Adelaide Rangers Supporters' Association. We have to be — sometimes he has videos we want and we regularly swap tapes."

Paul Byres, a Rangers fan originally from Lockerbie, runs The Scots Corner restaurant in London, Ontario, and he is expecting a sell-out on Thursday afternoon. "It will be a 2.45pm kick-off here," he said. "It's a civilised kick-off but that might be the only civilised aspect to it.

"Seriously, we will have around 100 punters in the restaurant, with the majority following Rangers but with Celtic fans as well."

Byres has the pies in stock for fans yearning for home cooking but, apparently, no Bovril. Labatt's, presumably, is the alcoholic alternative.

Lighthouse men around the coast of Scotland will not be so fortunate. The Northern Lighthouse Board confirmed that their televisions only have terrestrial channels.

☐ Graeme Armstrong, 40, moved to within 24 games of Terry Paine's British record for league appearances by an outfield player when he played his 800th match on Tuesday, for Stenhousemuir against Stranraer.

Doubt over Hislop

SHAKA HISLOP, the Newcastle United goalkeeper, could miss his side's FA Carling Premiership match with Liverpool at Anfield on Monday after dislocating a finger during their Uefa Cup defeat by AS Monaco on Tuesday.

Hislop, who was making his European debut, was hurt when he dived to save a shot from Sonny Anderson in the fifteenth minute, but after attention from Derek Wright, the club physiotherapist, managed to play on.

Pavel Srnicek, his deputy, who was due to play for the Czech Republic against Poland this weekend, is now likely to be withdrawn.

Derby County are reported to have signed two internationals from the Costa Rica club, Herediano. They are Paulo Wanchope, a striker, and Mauricio Solis, a midfield player. No fee has been announced.

Forest fail to solve striking problem

THE new owners of Nottingham Forest have failed in their attempt to make Brian Deane the first signing since the £19 million takeover of the club (Richard Hobson writes). Their bid of £2.5 million was turned down by Leeds United, who are confident that Deane will sign a new contract when his present deal expires at the end of the season.

Dave Bassett, the Forest general manager, had been led to believe that Deane, 29, would be allowed to leave Elland Road, having scored just four goals in 21 games. Forest are struggling to avoid relegation from the FA Carling Prmeiership and the owners — with Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman, pulling the strings as football consultant from his home in Monte Carlo — have highlighted a forward as the priority acquisition.

"We are in chronic need of a striker," Bassett said. "If I can find somebody capable of scoring 20 goals a season, it could keep us in the Premiership. Brian Deane did it for me for three seasons at Sheffield United, but Leeds were not interested in selling."

Scholar, who flew from Monaco to watch Forest against Sheffield Wednesday last night, is due to meet Bassett and Stuart Pearce, the caretaker manager until the end of the season, to discuss the club's next move this morning. With three weeks to go until the transfer deadline, Forest may turn their attentions towards an easier target. Pierre van Hooijdonk, the unsettled Celtic striker who has said that he is keen to move to Forest.

EQUESTRIANISM

Badminton loses status as key selection trial

By Jenny MacArthur

THE Mitsubishi Badminton Horse Trials in May will no longer be the official selection trial for the Great Britain three-day event team. The change, announced yesterday by Giles Rowsell, chairman of the national selectors, is part of a shake-up within the sport after Britain's dismal results at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

"We want to take the pressure off the riders by letting it be their choice whether or not they go to Badminton," Rowsell said yesterday. "Our main object is to have fit, sound horses to choose from for the team for the Open European championships in September. Riders will now have to take a gamble and decide where best to run their horses. If we have a choice of horses in September, a top four-star performance at Badminton will obviously count more than equivalent results at a three-star event, such as Saumur in France or Bramham."

The move has been welcomed by the riders. Ian Stark, a member of the British Olympic team, described it as "long overdue". Stark, who intends to compete at Badminton this year on his team contender, Stanwick Ghost, said: "It's not so bad this year, because the Open European is a three-star event, but when there are two four-star events in one year, such as the Olympics or world championships, it will be a relief for the rider to make his own decision about Badminton."

Rowsell said that no decision had been taken on the appointment of an overall team trainer. A more pressing concern is to fulfil the Sports Council's requirement for a performance director for the three disciplines of showjumping, horse trials and dressage.

"We are hoping for lottery funding," Rowsell said, "but the Sports Council now says it will only deal with one performance director for the three disciplines, so that appointment is our priority at the moment. We are not ruling out an overall team trainer, but that will come later."

Stark: welcome

Chris Bartle, who masterminded Britain's excellent dressage showing in the Olympic three-day event, is continuing as dressage trainer and Graham Fletcher has been brought in as showjumping trainer. Andy Bathe is the new team veterinary surgeon. In a bid to gain some of the lottery money due to be awarded to sports science, Bathe has been asked by the Sports Council to draw up a "dream programme" for the veterinary requirements of the three-day event team.

SQUASH

Lingfield hang on in final straight

By Colin McQuillan

WITH two fixtures remaining in the Super Squash League, it is virtually impossible to separate the teams, and results this week did little to suggest that anything but a last, feverish gallop down the finishing straight will identify the champions.

Ellis Lingfield retain a marginal lead on countback from Dunraven Maesteg and Surbiton, and might be seen as the favourites, with the world No 2 and No 3, Rodney Eyles and Peter Nicol, leading their line.

But this week Eyles lost 9-5, 9-7, 8-10, 9-8 to Simon Parke, the England No 1, who will lead Surbiton until they exercise the option of topping-up their squad with Jansher Khan, the world champion. Jansher arrives in Europe next week to start his preparation for the British Open championship in April.

Nicol defeated Julien Bonetat, the French No 1, 9-4, 9-5, 9-5 at second string in Surbiton, but the third-string match was secured for the home side by Denny Meddings, who beat Stepen Meads 9-4, 9-2, 9-6.

The unexpected defeat might have been more costly for Lingfield had Maesteg got their selection right against ICL Lionherts this week. Assuming that Mark Cairns, their British champion, would be tired from a Mercia Open final against Peter Marshall on Sunday, the Welsh side brought in Paul Gregory to lead their line against Chris Walker, Del Harris and Dan Jenson. In the event, Marshall withdrew from the tournament suffering from fatigue.

Cairns was fretting with nervous energy at courtside in Welwyn Garden City on Monday as Harris lost unexpectedly 9-4, 9-3, 9-8 to David Evans, the young Welsh champion, but then Craig van der Wath went down 9-5, 9-5, 8-10, 9-7 to Jenson and Gregory fell 9-6, 9-6, 9-5 to Walker as Lionherts recovered to win.

Maesteg will need their strongest line-up at Lingfield next week while Lionherts can increase the momentum of their title defence in an away match with Rowlands Manchester. The final fixtures pit Lionherts at home to Lingfield and Surbiton looking for maximum home points against Manchester.

POSITIONS: 1, Ellis Lingfield 10pts; 2, Dunraven Maesteg 10; 3, Surbiton 10; 4, Rowlands Manchester 9; 5, ICL Lionherts 9.

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NatWest	[illegible]	£134.10	£6,436.80	[illegible]
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Barclays	[illegible]	£235.73	£11,315.04	[illegible]
TSB	[illegible]	£232.77	£11,172.96	[illegible]
NatWest	[illegible]	£230.99	£11,087.52	[illegible]

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TUESDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

UEFA CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Newcastle United 0 AS Monaco 1; Anderlecht 1 Internazionale 1; Schalke 04 2 Valencia 0; Tenerife 0 Brondby 1

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Sunderland 0 Tottenham Hotspur 4

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley 1 Swindon Town 1; Birmingham City 1 Wolverhampton Wanderers 2; Charlton Athletic 2 Queens Park Rangers 1; Crystal Palace 1 Bolton Wanderers 1; Huddersfield Town 1 Oxford United 0; Ipswich Town 3 Bradford City 2, Oldham Athletic 1 Tranmere Rovers 2, Reading 2 Norwich City 1; Sheffield United 3 Port Vale 0 Second division: Brentford 0 Wycombe Wanderers 0, Bury 2 Shrewsbury Town 0, Chesterfield 1 Luton Town 1; Peterborough United 2 Watford 1, Walsall 2 Bristol City 0 Third division: Brighton 2 Northampton Town 1; Carlisle United 5 Torquay United 1, Exeter City 1 Barnet 1, Wigan Athletic 2 Hartlepool 2.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section: Semi-final: Crewe Alexandra 1 Stockport County 1 (Stockport win 5-3 on pens).

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Halifax Town 1 Hednesford Town 0; Stalybridge Celtic 2 Gateshead 5; Woking 0 Hayes 0 (match abandoned after 20min)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Greenock Morton 0 Falkirk 2 Second division: Brechin City 0 Hamilton Academical 1, Clyde 2 Dumbarton Athletic 1, Stenhousemuir 4 Stranraer 0 Third division: Arbroath 1 East Stirling 2; Ross County 2 Queen's Park 0

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: League of Wales 0 FAI League 2 (at Leckwith Stadium, Cardiff).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Dorchester 2 Merthyr 0; Gresley Rovers 1 Burton Albion 0, Hastings 2 King's Lynn 2 Nuneaton 3 Chelmsford 1 Midland division: Hinckley Town 2 Evesham Utd 1, RC Warwick 1 Raunds Town 1; Shepshed Dynamo 2 Moor Green 4 Tamworth 0 Ilkeston Town 0 Southern division: Cirencester Town 1 Fisher Athletic (London) 0 Erith and Belvedere 4 Newport IoW 4, Witney Town 4 Yate Town 1 Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Sudbury Tn 1 Weymouth 0

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Chorley 0 Leek Town 0 Gainsborough 1 Boston United 1, Lancaster 2 Bamber Bridge 3 First division: Leigh 2 Harrogate Town 0 President's Cup: Second round: Runcorn 3 Barrow 1 Second-round replay: Worksop Town 0 Blyth Spartans 1 (abandoned after 25min) League Cup: Fourth-round replay: Radcliffe Borough 0 Accrington Stanley 3

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Manchester City 3 Mansfield Town 1; Rotherham United 3 Hull City 0; Wrexham 3 Grimsby Town 1

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers 0 Clitheroe 2; Chadderton 1 Darwen 1, Mossley 2 Penrith 2

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: First division: Omagh Town 0 Larne 1

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford 0 Harrow Borough 1, Bromley 2 Kingstonian 2; Heybridge 4 Chertsey Town 1; Hitchin 4 Oxford City 2, Yeovil 6 Dulwich 1 First division: Abingdon Town 0 Molesey 1, Hampton 0 Tooting and Mitcham United 2; Marlow 3 Aldershot Town 1 Second division: Leighton Town 2 Wivenhoe Town 1; Metropolitan Police 0 Collier Row and Romford 4, Windsor and Eton 8 Cheshunt 0; Witham Town 0 Barking 5

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Stourport Swifts 2 Malvern Town 1, Walsall Wood 0 Bloxwich Strollers 10

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Desborough 1 Boston 1.

IRISH LEAGUE COCA-COLA FLOODLIT CUP: Semi-finals: Glenavon 2 Crusaders 0; Glentoran 2 Portadown 1 (aet)

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bilston Community Coll 1 Handrahan Timbers 2

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Bridgnorth Town 4 Shifnal Town 1, Chasetown 1 Boldmere St Michaels 2 (abandoned after 73min), Oldbury United 2 Blakenall 3, Pershore Town 0 Barwell 0, Stratford Town 2 Rocester 2, Willenhall Town 2 Hinckley Athletic 2

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Pickering Town 1 North Ferriby United 2; Thackley 2 Sheffield 0 (abandoned after 30min)

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Bemerton Heath Harlequins 5 Brockenhurst 4

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: [illegible] Felixstowe P and T 2, Tiptree Utd [illegible] and Parkeston 0

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Viking Sports 0 Netherne 1

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Centenary shield under-18 international: Holland 1 England 1 (at Zwolle) English Girls Under-16 Vimto Trophy: Quarter-final: Winston Churchill 3 Bower Park 1

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

KESTREL CONTRACT HIRE LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above company are required, on or before 7th April 1997, to send in their full names and addresses, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to me Jamie Taylor of The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea and if so required by notice in writing from me, are personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated 24/02/97
Jamie Taylor
LIQUIDATOR

N.B. This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been paid in full but if any person considers he has a claim against the company he should send in his claim forthwith.

No. 00408 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE BANK OF WALES PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division M) dated 26th February 1997 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £46,250,000 to £41,250,000 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 27th February 1997.

Dated this 4th day of March 1997

EVERSHEDS, Cloth Hall Court, Infirmary Street, Leeds LS1 2JB
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

STAMFORD COMMUNICATIONS GROUP LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1QD on Tuesday the 18th of March 1997 at 12.00 noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2)(a) of the Act, Mr Stephen J Wainwright of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1QD is Appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.

DATED THIS 3RD DAY OF MARCH 1997
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
R M PARSONS, DIRECTOR

J B International Limited
Registered Number: 2960503
Trading Name: Bouclets
Nature of Business: Antique and Jewellery Storage
Trade Classification: 38
Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver(s): 18 February 1997
Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s): Midland Bank plc
Type of Security: Fixed and Floating Charge
Date of Security: 11 March 1996
Name of persons appointed: S V Freakley and I P Phillips both of Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF (Office Holder Nos: 8291 and 2636)

The Insolvency Act 1986
C.P. PROJECTS LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Steven George Taylor MIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, The Old Bakery, Lower Gower Road, Royston, Herts SG8 5EA was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 25th February 1997.
S.G. TAYLOR MIPA Liquidator

Fliering Limited
-In Administrative Receivership-
Registered Number: 2297791

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF on 18 March 1997 at 12.00hrs for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.

Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative receivers at Leonard Curtis & Co, not later thatn 12.00hrs on 17 March 1997 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

J.J.Schapira, ACA
Joint Administrative receiver
3 March 1997

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCES

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT McGOVERN TAVERNS LIMITED has applied to the Corporation of London for Weekday Music and Cinematograph Licences for the premises McGOVERNS, 32 OLD BAILEY, LONDON EC4.

Anyone wishing to oppose the application must give notice in writing to the City Secretary, Corporation of London, P.O. Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2 2EJ WITHIN THREE WEEKS specifying the grounds of opposition. Persons objecting to the grant of a licence must be prepared to attend a hearing before a Committee of the Corporation.

Doe Estates Limited
-In Administrative Receivership-
Registered Number: 1020563

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF on 18 March 1997 at 12.00hrs for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.

Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative receivers at Leonard Curtis & Co, not later thatn 12.00hrs on 17 March 1997 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

J.J.Schapira, ACA
Joint Administrative receiver
3 March 1997

TRUCK FUNDING PLC (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

A meeting of the creditors of Truck Funding Plc is to be held at Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL on 24 March 1997 at 10.30am under the provisions of section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a creditors committee.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

A J Barrett, Joint Administrative Receiver
3 March 1997

Phillips Merchandising Co. Limited
(IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, J.J. Schapira, ACA a Licensed Insolvency Practioner of Messers Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members on 3 March 1997.

Notice is also given pursuant to Rule 4.182A that I propose to make a first and final distribution to the creditors of the Company. All creditors are required to send full details in writing of any claim to me by 27 March 1997, which is the last date for proving. The final distribution to creditors will be made without regard to any claims not received by the last date for proving.

The Company is known to be able to pay all of its creditors in full.

DATED THIS 3rd day of March 1997
J.J.SCHAPIRA, ACA, Liquidator

No. 003454 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF TRADETEAM LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division M) dated 26th February 1997 confirming the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company from £48,074,339 to £26,930,339 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 27th February 1997.

Dated this 4th day of March 1997

EVERSHEDS, Cloth Hall Court, Infirmary Street, Leeds LS1 2JB
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

RUGBY UNION

Injury to Grayson creates another problem at No 10

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

ENGLAND'S five nations' championship season, progressing serenely until the rude interruption by France last weekend, has taken on a more hesitant air. Injuries on Tuesday night to Paul Grayson and Richard Hill suggest that the team to play Wales in Cardiff on March 15, scheduled to be announced today, will amount to no more than a squad.

Grayson's injury seems the more serious. He left the field during Northampton's league game with Gloucester with a muscular problem. "I felt something pop after my first goal-kick and within a few minutes had no option but to go off," he said, leaving England in something of a quandary over what has been a problem position this season.

Grayson had physiotherapy on the leg yesterday and Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, said: "The muscle has been torn and there is internal bleeding. Paul needs to get rid of that before they can properly assess his condition, but, if it is just that, he has a fighting chance of being fit for Cardiff."

Should Grayson not recover in time, Mike Catt may well reclaim the No 10 jersey, or England can take the riskier option of giving a first cap to Alex King, the Wasps and England A stand-off.

Hill left the field during Saracens' victory over Orrell with a recurrence of an ankle injury. "I just felt a twinge and it made sense to come off," Hill said, "but I will play for Saracens against Bristol on Sunday and will be available for selection for the match against Wales."

Wales, who are also scheduled to name a squad today, have accepted that Arwel Thomas, their stand-off, will miss the international. He must keep a brace on his injured knee for another fortnight at least, leaving the team management to decide between Jonathan Davies and Neil Jenkins, who has made a successful conversion at international level to full back.

Davies, who fractured a rib last month, claims that he will be fit to "have one last crack" at England, but it would seem far more sensible to restore Jenkins to his club position and bring Wayne Proctor in at full back, where he played well last year.

Like all first and second division clubs, those in league action on Tuesday were the first to be affected by the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) acceptance of the International Rugby Football Board's recommendation for six replacements to be available. The RFU did so on safety grounds and to lessen the potential for injury to players fighting to go with the British Lions to South Africa this summer, but McGeechan stressed that the change indicated how swiftly the new company designed to run professional rugby in England can work.

"I have been fighting for an expansion of replacements for a month," McGeechan, the Lions coach, said. "Fortunately, we have the company in operation and that means quick decisions can be taken between the RFU and the top 24 clubs. It was rugby people making a rugby decision."

☐ The BBC will screen both matches live on the final weekend of the five nations' championship. The first half of France's pursuit of a grand slam against Scotland will be shown on BBC1 and the second half on BBC2, once coverage of Wales against England begins on BBC1.

Barbarians turn on style with 12-try spree

East Midlands	38
Barbarians	72

By David Hands

THE Barbarians celebrated, in their customary manner, the memory of Edgar Mobbs at Northampton yesterday, running in 12 tries in their frolic with the East Midlands, but they have no more to look forward to this season. League rugby and the professional era have finally killed the traditional Easter tour to South Wales and instead the Barbarians will take themselves to Italy in June for further missionary work.

There they will spread their gospel of open, adventurous rugby. Yet the most famous invitation club in the world cannot be an anachronism while so many players enjoy appearing in their colours.

The Barbarians have been prepared to seek out players from clubs that still appreciate their qualities and give them games alongside international luminaries — thus Mark Richardson, of Aspatria, played in the victory over Leicester last week, and Brian Johnson and Nick Grecian, from Newbury, revelled alongside six capped players yesterday.

Northampton had hoped to field most of their first XV in East Midlands colours, as they did last year, but the rearranged league match with Gloucester on Tuesday scotched that plan. East Midlands, therefore, were a thinly-disguised Northampton development XV.

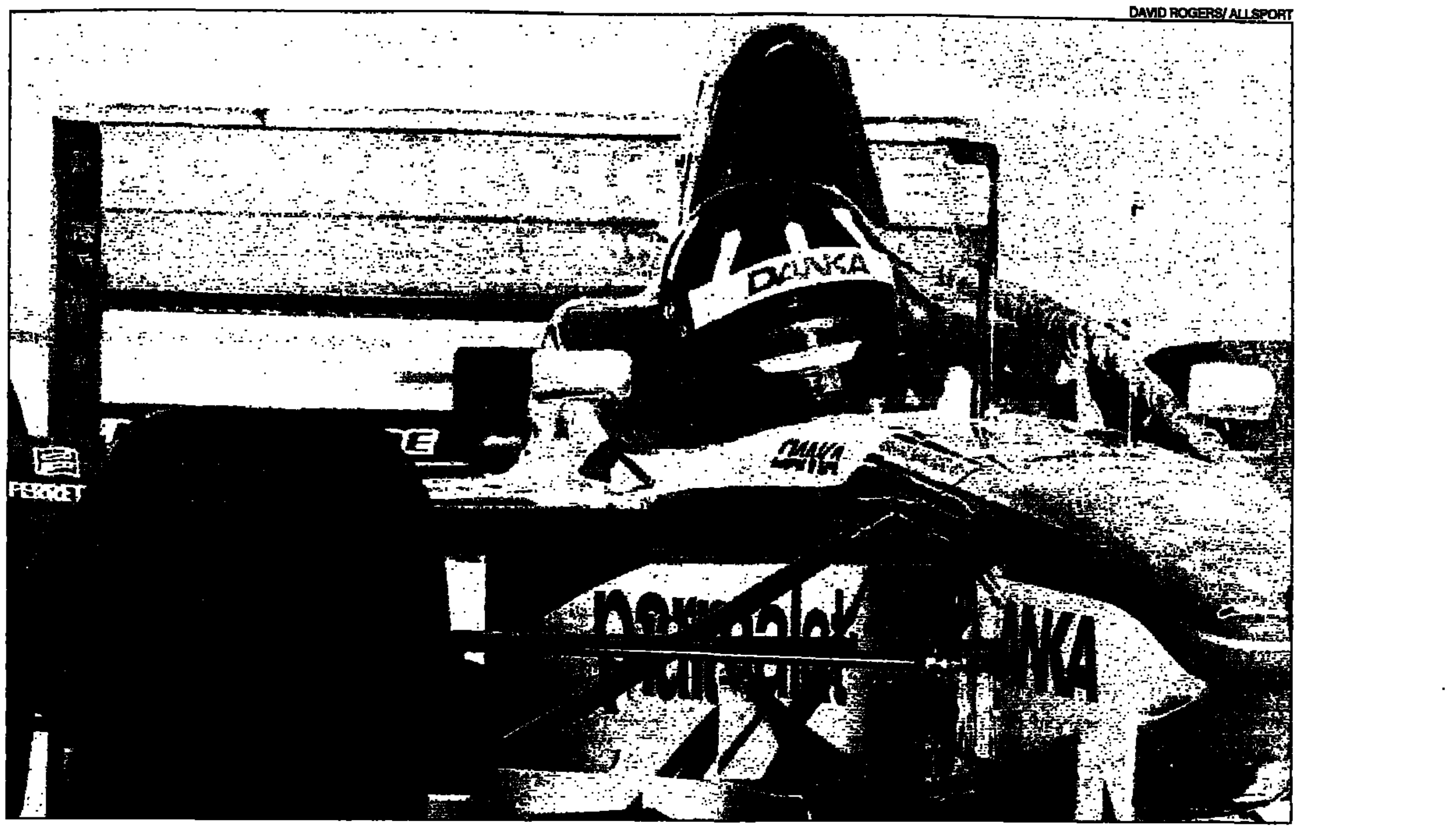
The Barbarians were 28-22 down at half-time, but they turned up the power, falling only five points short of their record in this fixture, 77 scored four years ago.

SCORERS: East Midlands: Tries: Hepher, Merlin, C Johnson, Wright, Beales, Law. Conversions: Hepher (4). Barbarians: Tries: Hopley (3), Boyd (2), Robinson, Grecian, Scully, Martin, Gardner, Sporleder, B Johnson. Conversions: Scully (4), Grecian, Liley.

EAST MIDLANDS (Northampton unless stated): M Dods; A Beales, N Law, P Greaves, K Morgan; A Hepher, D Malone; C Allen, C Johnson, L Mansell (Bedford), P Alston (Luton, captain), M Fountaine, I Skingsley (Bedford Athletic), J Wright, D Merlin. Morgan replaced by C Phillips (40min); Mansell replaced by M Lewis (58); Fountaine replaced by M Birke (72); Malone replaced by J Cooley (Bedford, 72).

BARBARIANS: N Grecian (Newbury); B Johnson (Newbury), L Arbizu (Belgrano AC and Argentina), R Robinson (Coventry), P Hopley (Wasps); A Boyd (Richmond), D Scully (Wakefield), M Cuttitta (Milan and Italy), P Freshwater (Leicester), M Linnett (Worcester and England), R Martin (SIC and Argentina), R Brown (Melrose), P Sporleder (Curupayti and Argentina), D Eves (Coventry), J Gardner (Treviso and Italy). Robinson replaced by R Liley (Leicester, 60); Linnett replaced by A Sharp (Coventry and Scotland, 69).

Referee: J Pearson (Durham).


DAVID ROGERS/ALLSPORT

Hill is a study of concentration as he settles into the TWR Arrows car that he will drive in the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday

Hill ready to be driven off his pedestal

Oliver Holt on how success last year has prepared the world champion for a difficult season ahead

Halfway to Australia, in one of the passenger lounges at Bangkok airport, Damon Hill was talking about his most embarrassing moments. The front wing of his Arrows had fallen off while he was driving it round Silverstone late last week, but there were only a few people there so it was low on the scale. It was an incident on his wedding day that was uppermost in his mind.

Nervous, sitting in the church on the front pew with his best man, Hill thought that he heard his wife-to-be, Georgie, coming in at the back, so he stood up. It was someone else, but Hill felt too sheepish to admit his mistake and sit down again so he stayed bolt upright for ten minutes, sweltering in his smart suit, until she arrived.

Back on the plane, his thoughts stayed on the same tack, switching direction only slightly towards a sportsman's fear of failure. Mainly, it was the horror he had felt in the middle of last year when he watched Greg Norman blow his chance at the Masters and realised that the same ridicule would be heaped on him if he failed to hold off Jacques Villeneuve in the race for the Formula One drivers' title. "That last round in Augusta was unbearable to watch," Hill said, "so God knows what Norman felt.

"It was a sobering experience for me, knowing that that would be the fate I would have to bear if I did not win the championship."

The point of these stories and the reason for the ease and happy animation with which Hill was relating them is that winning the world championship sluiced his life clear of embarrassment and failure and left it awash with awards and acclamation. It made his name synonymous with being a winner. "I feel like I have broken through a barrier," he said.

However, Hill, still as modest, perceptive and analytical after his title win as he was before it, is also keenly aware of the paradoxes of his situation. In statistical terms at least, he is a winner who is about to become a loser, a driver who was always at the front with Williams but, now that he has been dropped by them, is likely to be struggling near the back with his new team, TWR Arrows. Over the winter, much of the early optimism that greeted his capture by Tom Walkinshaw, the Arrows owner, has been replaced by scarcely concealed dismay about the lack of power in the car's Yamaha engine. The front-wing fiasco at Silverstone even prompted a few wild rumours that Hill would quit before the season had even begun.

Hill scotched those rumours on the flight to Melbourne when he said that he was hoping to drive at the top level for several more years, but he admitted, too, that he will be forced to let the title he fought so hard to win for so many years slip away without a proper fight.

"I could be bitter and resentful about not having the opportunity to defend my championship," Hill said. "I am going to have to sit by this season and watch it taken from me without the possibility really to fight and defend it. I believe it would have been possible to win another title this season, but it does not do to go all wistful about what might have been. The basic problems at Arrows are clear: the car is not quick enough and the engine has not got enough horsepower. The car's great, it's just a bit on the slow side.

"It would be fair to say that at the moment we have got more potential to improve than any other team in Formula One.

"People say it will be a great anticlimax for me now but I never took anything for granted when I was at the front with Williams. It took me a long time to get to the top rung of the ladder and before I made it I endured driving cars that were a lot less competitive than I believe we will be this year. I was always motivated then by the belief that that would be a temporary state of affairs and that is what will keep me going this year."

His consolation, too, will lie in the fact that he will have more influence over his team than he ever did at Williams, where he was a small cog in a big wheel. At Arrows, he is the centre of attention, the focus of everything, a man to be deferred to.

"There is only so much a driver can do at Williams, and here there is the opportunity for me to give input into a lot more areas," he said. "I always felt I was trying to prove myself, right from the moment I phoned Frank to ask for a chance as a test driver.

"After that, it was trying to persuade him I could be a racing driver, and then when Ayrton Senna died it was 'look, Frank, I can lead this team, I can really do it'. I was consistently trying to prove that I could do the job and I was always met with these sideways looks."

Now, though, the world champion's honeymoon is about to come to an end. When the cars take to the track for the first time this season in practice tomorrow, Hill admits that he will have to get used to a new discipline behind the wheel of the car bearing the prestigious No 1 on its livery.

"I didn't have to look in my mirrors much last season," he said, "because I knew there would be nobody overtaking me. This year, let's just say I might have a bit more competition."

IN BRIEF

Ryder Cup plea by Torrance

SAM TORRANCE, who is hoping to play in his ninth successive Ryder Cup in Valderrama, Spain, in September, has joined the growing ranks of golfers who believe that Seve Ballesteros, the Europe captain, should be given greater freedom when the team that will take on the United States is chosen.

Torrance, who plays in the Moroccan Open in Agadir this week, thinks that three players chosen by the captain plus nine selected automatically would be ideal. At present, Ballesteros can choose two players to join the first ten in the Ryder Cup points table — determined by prize-money won on the European Tour by August 31.

☐ **Rowing:** Oriel comfortably rowed over at the top of men's division one on the opening day of Oxford University's Torpids on the Isis yesterday. In the women's division one, Osler-Green, the leaders, held off a late challenge by St Catherine's.

☐ **Ice hockey:** Norman Pinnington, the Kingston Hawks forward, will be free to play this weekend after a British Ice Hockey Association disciplinary committee cleared him of head-butting in a match against Telford Tigers on February 22. Pinnington had appealed against an automatic six-game ban.

☐ **Hockey:** Ireland's hopes of reaching the finals of the men's World Cup are virtually over after they suffered their second defeat in consecutive days at the qualifying tournament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. The 3-1 defeat by South Korea followed a 3-1 loss to Belgium on Tuesday.

☐ **Cricket:** Chris Cairns, the Nottinghamshire and New Zealand all-rounder, is expected to undergo surgery on an ankle injury at the end of the Test and one-day series against Sri Lanka later this month. He faces a six-week recuperation period.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 93 Cleveland 88; Charlotte 105 San Antonio 98; Miami 108 Detroit 99; Indiana 98 Boston 95; New York 93 Milwaukee 88; Washington 107 Philadelphia 108; Orlando 101 Seattle 89; LA Lakers 102 Dallas 92; Portland 123 New Jersey 118, Houston 113 LA Clippers 109.

BILLIARDS

NORWICH: Strachan world matchplay championship: Second round: S Naisby (Eng) bt E Hughes (Ire) 4-2; R Foldvari (Aus) bt P Sheehan (Eng) 4-0; S Agrawal (India) bt M Kothari (India) 4-1; C Shutt (Eng) bt A Potikyan (Russ) 4-0; I Williamson (Eng) bt P Welham (Eng) 4-0; G Sethi (India) bt M Rehani (India) 4-2; A Shandilya (India) bt S Hardcastle (Eng) 4-2. Third round: D Joshi (India) bt Agrawal 4-2

BOWLS

YORK: EWIBA national championships: Champion of champions: Semi-finals: S Rickman (King George Field) bt J Wilson (Cumbria) 21-5; L Jarman (Cambridge Chesterton) bt A Harrison (Folkestone) 21-18. Final: Rickman bt Jarman 21-19. Triples: First round: Cherwell (K Hawes) bt Colchester (B Brown) 19-7; Cambridge Chesterton (L Jarman) bt Dolphin (J Green) 24-12; King George Field (J Annan) bt Spalding (G Haney) 22-8; Folkestone (A Harrison) bt County Arts (R Norris) 19-16; Tamworth (P Burton) bt Worthing (W Davies) 18-17; Eldon, Newcastle (A Hubbard) bt Mansfield, North London (M van Pul) 19-15; Egham (K Strutt) bt Copeland, Cumbria (M Eccles) 28-9; Donyatt (J Shecketts) bt Padbrook Park, Devon (P Clark) 22-21 (after extra end). Quarter-finals: Eldon, Newcastle bt Tamworth 30-8; Egham bt Donyatt 25-10; Cambridge Chesterton bt Cherwell 18-12; Folkestone bt King George Field 22-18. Semi-finals: Cambridge Chesterton bt Folkestone 17-8, Egham bt Eldon, Newcastle 18-10

BOXING

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, London: Professional bill: Super-featherweight (8 rnds): Matt Brown (Walworth) bt Wayne Jones (Saltash) rsc 3rd rnd. Light-middle (4 rnds): Alvar Coppard (Crawley) bt Ed Robinson (Kentish Town) rsc 1st rnd. Light-middle (6 rnds): Anthony McFadden (Ire) bt Clayton Stewart (Paddington) rsc 6th rnd. Middle (4 rnds): Enzo Giordano (Islington) bt Andy Ewen (Ipswich) rsc 3rd rnd. Super-middle (8 rnds): Herol Graham (Sheffield) bt Craig Joseph (Bradford) pts. Cruiser (4 rnds): Dominic Negus (Havering) bt Nigel Rafferty (Wolverhampton) pts. Heavy (6 rnds): Mika Kihlstrom (Fin) bt Robbie Albon (Hayes) pts. Heavy (10 rnds): Garry Delaney (West Ham) bt Peter Oboh (Nigeria) disq 8th rnd.

HOCKEY

KUALA LUMPUR: World Cup qualifying tournament: Group A: Poland 5 Malaysia 4; Spain 4 Switzerland 1; Canada 5 South Africa 4. Group B: Belgium 2 Ireland 1; New Zealand 3 Argentina 1; South Korea 4 Belarus 2; New Zealand 2 Belarus 0; Ireland 1 South Korea 3.

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Middlesex 1 Surrey 6, Sussex 3 Kent 4.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Tampa Bay 6 NY Islanders 3, New Jersey 3 Pittsburgh 1; Washington 2 Calgary 1; Edmonton 4 Los Angeles 1.

LACROSSE

MILTON KEYNES: National schoolgirls tournament: McFarlane Cup (seniors) Semi-finals: Westonbirt 2 Harrogate Ladies College 4; St Albans 0 Benenden 2. Final: Harrogate Ladies 1 Benenden 0. Bentley Challenge (juniors): Semi-finals: St Helen and St Katherine's II 1 St Bartholomew's 2, St Helen and St Katherine's 2 Haberdashers' Aske's 2 (St Helen and St Katherine's won on goal average after extra time). Final: St Bartholomew's 1 St Helen and St Katherine's 2

ROWING

OXFORD UNIVERSITY TORPIDS

MEN: First division: Brasenose New College and University bpd Christchurch, Lincoln bpd Worcester, Oriel II Exeter bpd Wadham. **Today's starting order:** Oriel, Pembroke, Magdalen, Brasenose, New College, University, Christ Church, Lincoln, Worcester, St Edmund Hall, Oriel II, Exeter. **Second division:** Queen's bpd St John's, Trinity and Jesus bpd Lady Margaret Hall, Merton bpd Hertford. **Today's starting order:** Wadham, St Catherine's, Queen's, St John's, Balliol, St Peter's, Trinity, Jesus, Lady Margaret Hall, Keble, Osler-Green, Merton. **Third division:** St Anne's, Pembroke II bpd Balliol II, Mansfield bpd Pembroke II, Oriel III, Corpus Christi University II bpd St Edmond Hall II, New College II bpd Corpus Christi. **Today's starting order:** Hertford, Wolfson, Linacre, St Hugh's, St Anne's, Mansfield, Pembroke II, Balliol II, Oriel III, New College II, Corpus Christi, University II. **Fourth division:** Keble II, Magdalen II bpd Brasenose II, Exeter II bpd Worcester II, Somerville, Lincoln II, Lady Margaret Hall II, Wadham II bpd St John's II, Wolfson II bpd St Catherine's II. **Today's starting order:** St Edmund Hall II, Keble II, Magdalen II, Brasenose II, Exeter II, Worcester II, Somerville, Lincoln II, Lady Margaret Hall II, Wadham II, St John's II, Wolfson II. **Fifth division:** St Peter's II, Wolfson II, Oriel IV, St Benet's Hall bpd Queen's II, Wolfson II bpd St Peter's II, St Anne's II bpd Oriel IV, Jesus II bpd St Benet's Hall, Hertford II bpd University III, Osler-Green II, Regents Park and Magdalen II bpd Keble III. **Today's starting order:** St Catherine's, St Peter's II, St Anne's II, Oriel IV, Jesus II, St Benet's Hall, Queen's II, Hertford II, University III, Osler-Green II, Regents Park, Magdalen III. **Sixth division:** race abandoned and starting order subject to adjudication by race officials. **Seventh division:** Queen's III, Wadham III, St Catherine's III, St Hugh's III, St Anne's III, Merton III bpd Brasenose III, Merton IV bpd Hertford III. **Today's starting order:** University IV, Pembroke III, Queen's III, Wadham III, St Catherine's III, St Hugh's III, St Anne's III, Merton III, Brasenose III, Mansfield II, Corpus Christi III, Merton IV, Hertford III. **Women: First division:** Oriel and St Hilda's bpd Pembroke University and Lady Margaret Hall bpd Christ Church. **Today's starting order:** Osler-Green, St Catherine's, New College, Wadham, Somerville, Oriel, St Hilda's, Pembroke, University, Lady Margaret Hall, Christ Church, Trinity. **Second division:** Wolfson bpd Worcester, Merton bpd King's, St Edmund Hall bpd Balliol, Keble bpd St Anne's. **Today's starting order:** Brasenose, Lincoln, Hertford, Wolfson, Worcester, Merton, Queen's, St Edmund Hall, Balliol, Jesus, Exeter, Keble. **Third division:** Magdalen and Mansfield bpd St Hugh's, Magdalen II bpd Pembroke II, Lady Margaret Hall II bpd Pembroke II, Wadham II and Corpus Christio bpd Lady Margaret Hall II. **Today's starting order:** St Anne's, Osler-Green II, St Peter's, Linacre, Somerville II, Magdalen, Mansfield, St Hugh's, Magdalen II, Wadham, Corpus Christie, Lady Margaret Hall II. **Fourth division:** St Edmund Hall II bpd Merton II, Hertford II bpd Lincoln II, St Antony's and Wolfson III bpd Christ Church II. **Today's starting order:** Pembroke II, Wolfson II, Regent's Park, St Catherine's II, St Edmund Hall II, Merton II, Hertford II, Lincoln II, St Antony's, Wolfson III, Christ Church II, Brasenose II, St Hugh's II

RUGBY UNION

Mobbs memorial match

East Midlands	38	Barbarians	72

(at Northampton)

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP. First division: Gloucester 10 Northampton 6, Leicester 25 Sale 9, Saracens 24 Orrell 15

CLUB MATCH: Oxford University 22 Oxfordshire 17

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg: Sydney to Cape Town (positions at 13.52GMT yesterday, with miles to Cape Town): 1, Toshiba Wave Warrior 5,674; 2, Pause to Remember 5,670; 3, Save the Children 5,676; 4, Concert 5,676; 5, Courtaulds Int 5,676; 6, Group 4 5,677; 7, Commercial Union 5,677; 8, Nuclear Electric 5,678; 9, Motorola 5,678; 10, Heath Insured II 5,678; 11, 3Com 5,682; 12, Time & Tide 5,688; 13, Global Teamwork 5,689; 14, Ocean Rover 5,695

SQUASH

KUALA LUMPUR. Women's satellite tournament. Semi-finals. L Irving (Aus) bt L Joyce (NZ) 5-9, 9-1, 9-6, 9-0; J Wilson (NZ) bt V Atkinson (Holl) 0-9, 10-9, 9-4, 9-2. **Final:** Irving bt Wilson 9-4, 9-2, 9-5

TENNIS

ROTTERDAM. Men's tournament: First round: M Sinner (Ger) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 6-3, 6-4; D Prinosil (Ger) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) [illegible] 6-2; T Enqvist (Swe) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 7-6, 6-7, 6-2; R Krajicek (Holl) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-4, 6-2; D Vacek (Cz) bt J Siemerink (Holl) 7-6, 7-6.

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona. Men's tournament. First round: A Costa (Sp) bt M-K Goellner (Ger) 6-4, 7-6; R Reneberg (US) bt V Spadea (US) 7-6, 6-7, 6-1; C Woodruff (US) bt J Tarango (US) 7-6, 6-2; S Stolle (Aus) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-2, 6-1; B Black (Zim) bt M Rios (Chile) 6-1, 4-6, 7-6; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt A O'Brien (US) [illegible] 1-6, 7-5; J Sanchez (Sp) bt A Agassi (US) 6-3, 6-2; P Rafter (Aus) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 6-3, 6-1; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt L Lavalle (Mex) 7-6, 3-6, 6-3; [illegible] (Nor) bt [illegible] (Ven) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24 pts [illegible]; 23 [illegible]; 22 £18.00; 21 £5.20. Four draws: £21.70. 10 homes: £855.00. Five aways: [illegible]

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24 pts £5,299.10; [illegible]. Super Shot: [illegible]

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24 pts £1,444.65; [illegible]. Eight aways: [illegible]. Four draws: [illegible]. Eight homes: £14.80. Four aways: [illegible]. Super 7: £134.60

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-finals, first leg

Barcelona v AIK Solna (8.0)
Benfica v Fiorentina (7.45)
Paris Saint-Germain v AEK Athens
Sk Brann v Liverpool (7.15)

Tennents Scottish Cup

Fifth round

Celtic v Rangers (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Unifilla First Division Cup: Third-round replay: Netherfield v Ashton United

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE. Premier division: Nottingham Forest v Everton (7.0). First division: West Bromwich v Port Vale (at Halesowen Town FC, 7.0)

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Sixth-round replay: Ilkeston v Arsenal.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Trophy. Under-19: Quarter-final: Hampshire v Surrey (at New Milton, 6.30). Under-16: Quarter-final. Sussex v Oxfordshire (at The Saffrons, 7.0). English Schools Under-19 Trophy: Wolverhampton Grammar, West Midlands v Clitheroe Grammar, Lancashire (2.15); Cardinal Newman, Lancashire v Yale College, North East Wales (2.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL. Budweiser League: Leopards v Worthing (7.0)

BOWLS: Women's English national indoor championships (at York)

HOCKEY: Women's county championship: Berkshire v Oxfordshire (at Bracknell, 8.0). British Aerospace under-18 schoolgirls' championship (at Milton Keynes Stadium, 9.30).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

This hand is from the first round of the 1996-97 Premier League. There were two technical points in the play.

Dealer South **East-West game** **IMPs**

North:
♠K Q 10 5
♥A 10
♦K J 7
♣A K 6 3

West:
♠7 6 4 2
♥Q 6 3
♦A 9
♣9 8 5 2

East:
♠9 8 3
♥9 7 5 2
♦10 6 3 2
♣Q 4

South:
♠A J
♥K J 8 4
♦Q 8 5 4
♣J 10 7

Contract: Six No-Trumps by South. Lead: two of clubs

Over South's 12-14 1 NT opening North bid Two Clubs, asking for majors. South bid Two Hearts and North raised to 4 NT. He meant that as "quantitative", ie asking South to bid on if he had a maximum. I agree with his interpretation. However, South took 4 NT as ace-asking and bid Five Hearts, so North closed the auction with an exasperated 6 NT. As it happens the cards fit together well, and I should think the overall chance is more than the 50 per cent needed to make it worthwhile at IMPs.

After declarer won the lead in dummy, the first point of technique was in the diamond suit. It is correct to lead twice towards the king-jack, in case West has ace doubleton. You don't often see it gaining in practice, as the chance of A x with West is quite low; in addition, entry considerations frequently preclude the play. But here, declarer had two entries in spades and for once the safety play paid off.

West won the second diamond and exited with a spade. How should the declarer play for his twelfth trick? He can play off the ace-king in one of the "rounded" suits (clubs or hearts) and if that queen doesn't fall take a finesse in the other. As he has more clubs that queen is more likely to fall in two rounds, so clubs should be played first. When the queen of clubs appears under the ace declarer is home.

Even if declarer had equal length in clubs and hearts, after West had led a club it would still be right to play the top clubs first. Against No-trump slams where the declaring side have shown no long suits it is best to make a passive lead, and thus West would be unlikely to lead away from the queen of clubs.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

OGOSHI
a. An exclamation
b. A dice game
c. A hip throw

POLER
a. A sponger
b. A punter at Cambridge
c. A headsman

RIEGEL
a. A leap at skating
b. A ridge of bedrock
c. A snowshoe

PABST
a. Sugar beet pulp
b. Lager
c. A Polish dance

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
chess correspondent

Beijing wins

The six-player match between teams from London and Beijing was won by the side from China. Beijing scored ten points to London's eight and clinched the match by winning 2-1 in the sixth round.

University chess

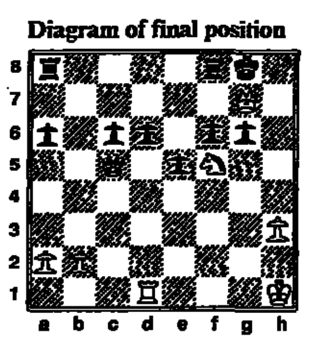
Today's report, giving a win apiece by both Oxford and Cambridge, concludes my coverage of this year's Varsity match, held at the Royal Automobile Club, London. Cambridge won 5½-2½ and moved into a two-match lead over the series, which started in 1873.

White: Maxim Devereux (Brasenose College, Oxford);
Black: Demis Hassabis (Queens' College, Cambridge)
Oxford v Cambridge, February 1997

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	e5
5	Nb5	d6
6	c4	Be7
7	N1c3	a6
8	Na3	Be6
9	Bd3	Bg5
10	0-0	Bxc1
11	Rxc1	Nge7
12	Qd2	Ng6
13	Rfd1	0-0
14	Nc2	Nf4
15	Bf1	Qg5
16	Nd5	Bg4
17	h4	Qxh4
18	f3	Nh3+
19	gxh3	Bxd3
20	Re1	Bxe4
21	Bg2	Bxg2
22	Qxg2	Qxc4
23	Nce3	Qd3
24	Rxc6	bxc6
25	Rd1	Qb5
26	Nf5	g6
27	Nde7+	Kh8
28	Qg5	Qc5+
29	Kh1	f6
30	Nxg6+	hxg6
31	Qh6+	Kg8
32	Qg7	checkmate

Diagram of final position



White: Louisa Orton (Christ's College, Cambridge)
Black: Susan Little (Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford)
Oxford v Cambridge, February 1997

Guioco Piano

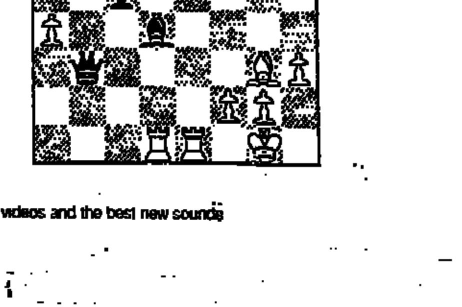
1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bc4	d6
4	d4	Nxd4
5	Nxd4	exd4
6	Qxd4	Be6
7	Nc3	Qf6
8	Qd3	Qg6
9	Bxe6	Qxg2
10	Qb5+	c6
11	Bxf7+	Kxf7
12	Qxb7+	Ne7
13	Rf1	Re8
14	Bf4	d5
15	exd5	cxd5
16	0-0-0	g6
17	f3	Bg7
18	Nxd5	Bf6
19	Nxf6	Rc8
20	Qb3+	Kxf6
21	Rd6+	Kg7
22	Be5+	Kf8
23	Rf6+	Ke8
24	Qf7+	Black resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Maugg — Tessmer, Obersdorf 1997. White has a strong passed pawn on d6 and powerful centralised rooks. Black has therefore attempted to relieve the pressure by bringing his bishop to d4, to try and hamper White's communications. Was this a good idea?



Solution on page 46

9.30-10.00 Golden Girls 11.00-11.30 Snowboard Show (32493505) 1.00 Albion Market (6045490) 1.30 Krypton Gallery (2017020) 3.00-4.00 Friday the 13th 8.00 Batman (75344) 8.30 An Attack rags and Glamour (3461438) 9.15 Gordon pop videos and the best new sounds

Champion of 95 in search of longevity

Here is how you, too, can be a globetrotting sports champion at the age of 95. The secrets come straight from the lips of a man who knows.

Everett Hosack was born in 1902, the year when King Edward VII was crowned in Westminster Abbey and when you could have snapped up 82 acres around Earls Court, in London, complete with 1,450 houses, for just £565,000. At the weekend the remarkable Hosack, from Ohio, in the United States, carried off three gold medals while competing as a guest in the European indoor veterans athletics championships in Birmingham.

He was guaranteed victory in the long jump (2.00 metres), 60 metres (16.96sec) and shot (4.07 metres) simply because he was there. The veterans compete in five-year age-bands, and Hosack was the only one entered in the 95 to 99 years section.

This week you could have caught up with him as he relaxed after his exhausting weekend by leaping around London, like any other tourist, on foot, bus and Tube — his gold medals jangling in his pocket and his fitness and pride in his victories twinkling in his eyes.

When he had seen the sights in London and Birmingham, he had plans to take in Paris before flying back across the Atlantic.

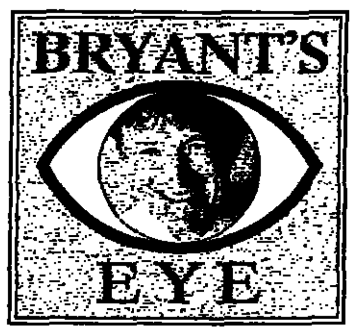
So how does he do it? What advice does he have to pass on to other would-be sportsmen and women who have long passed the milestones of middle age?

Hosack first put on running shoes when he was 21; that was back in 1923. He went to the University of Florida, where he was soon a leading hurdler. After university he ran in a team formed by the New York Central Railroad, his employers, but, after the Wall Street crash of 1929, the stockholders were not keen on spending money on sport and the track meetings ended.

> ‘I do have a weakness for blueberry pie’

For the next 50 years Hosack's athletics career went into suspended animation, but he kept himself trim and his simple exercise and diet regime might serve as a model for anyone who wants to prepare themselves for a sporting old age.

As well as his tough physical work in the shunting yards of the railroad company, he lived an outdoor life in the country. He says that he had seven acres of land on which he planted 300 pine trees. "I mowed a path around the trees and I used to run around it," he said. "It wasn't far, just a mile or so, but I would run it in five or ten minutes two or three times a week. It was much better than the sidewalk, which is too cruel on your knees."



It was a perfect example of training that was just hard enough to keep him in good shape and health, but not so tough that it would wear him out or injure him.

Add to this half-century of regular light exercise a good marriage and sound nutrition, and you may well have the formula for long life and sporting success. Elsa, Hosack's wife, who was born of Swedish parents, is 87 years old. "We have been sweethearts since 1929," Hosack said, "but we couldn't get married for a while because of the Depression."

Elsa is very strong on nutritious food. "She cuts down on all the fat," Hosack said. "She even takes the skin off chicken for me. She fills me up with plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit; and we keep well away from anything in cans. I eat simple food, though I do have a big weakness for pies. Blueberry pie is my favourite.

"I like to start every day with a good breakfast — oatmeal and bananas — but I really eat very lightly. I sometimes skip lunch altogether and just have an evening meal." At nearly 6ft, Hosack is a sinewy 150lb. "At one time I got up to 165lb," he said. "My clothes were a little tight, so I simply cut back on the food."

Perhaps the secret lies in extra vitamins? "I do take an odourless substitute for garlic," he said, "a one-a-day multivitamin pill and some vitamin E." However, when asked if he thinks that this is the secret of long life, he said: "It's too soon to say, I've only been taking them for the past six months."

Alcohol and tobacco have always been no-go areas for Hosack. "I will take an occasional drink, but I'm very blessed in that I don't care for it," he said. "They presented me with a bottle of champagne at Birmingham, but I gave it to one of the officials. It would taste just like vinegar to me."

Hosack made his comeback in athletics at the age of 77, when he joined the Over The Hill Track Club. Since then he has been training regularly for an hour twice a week at a high school track. He jogs half a mile to warm up, then practises jumping, throwing and sprint starts, using spiked shoes when he runs on the track. He reckons to get ten hours or more sleep a night and does not believe in getting up too early in the morning.

> ‘You should have seen me when I was 92’

He will next compete in Boston, in two weeks' time, in the hammer, his favourite event. Hosack is a remarkable man, whipcord fit with plenty of hair, clear blue eyes and a trim white-grey moustache. If you were told that he was 20 years younger, you would not bet against it.

"If you think I look in good shape, you should have seen me when I was 92," he said. "I was as fit as a fiddle up to 92, but now the germs are circling my wagon."

They may be circling, but Hosack still looks as if he can outrun them any time he wants.

JOHN BRYANT

Alan Lee names Stewart, Croft and Gough as main tour successes

England end with favourable balance

HOW quickly things change — or, more pertinently, how quickly they can appear to change. Two months ago, England skulked out of Zimbabwe trailed by words such as "disgrace" and "humiliation". Today they arrive home from New Zealand, the leadership more secure and the team more settled than it has been in years.

Have England suddenly learnt how to play? Are they about to conquer the cricketing world? Of course not. Most of sport falls in the grey area between two extremes and England were neither as unspeakable as might be thought in the first half of their trip, nor as indestructible in the second.

They ought to have won the brief Test series against Zimbabwe, and all but did; they were then dreadful in two one-day internationals, which were the last thing people saw and the first they remembered. In New Zealand, better prepared and acclimatised, they were one wicket away from winning the Test series 3-0 rather than 2-0 and even showed an overdue improvement in one-day cricket until fatigue brought them down.

Zimbabwe were better than expected, New Zealand much worse. They are in a mess, their confidence low, their pool of talent shallow; there have been few poorer international sides in recent years.

England, however, played some admirable Test cricket and established a balance that looked authoritative. The use of Robert Croft, whose self-belief has flourished, together with Phil Tufnell offers variety and control that the endless seam-orientated attacks of the past few years could not rival. Long may it last.

For the first time in his four tours as captain, Michael Atherton is coming home with a team that could remain intact, and if Atherton's conviction that the Australians are "vulnerable" sounds optimistic, the odds of 7-1 against England winning back the Ashes are insultingly long.

The confirmation of Atherton's position is reassuring. It was all very well to demand scapegoats, but if Atherton was to go, who would succeed him? Alec Stewart, almost 34 and already burdened with two key jobs? Nasser Hussain, whose volatility may have receded but whose captaincy experience is slim?

Atherton has stated that he wants to continue, and not merely to break Peter May's record of 41 Tests as an England captain, which he should do at Lord's in June. "The record itself isn't important," he said. "But there is a lot of scrutiny attached to this job and if it means I have coped with it in a reasonable way, that is a source of satisfaction."

He has had a good deal to cope with on this tour and has handled it quietly, equably, very much in his own way. Atherton has been the strong and silent side of the England management. His public utterances have been measured and few, a description, he said, that applies equally to his team talks: "I am conscious that Graham Gooch found he was always saying the same thing and that eventually he wasn't getting through. I now prefer to speak less but make it pointed."

Cork, left, was disappointing, but Croft blossomed

Atherton has come through a difficult winter with his captaincy still secure

This is a lesson that David Lloyd, the coach, has learnt the hard way. He has been swept along on a tide of rhetoric more than once and the belated realisation that he was being ridiculed for it led to temporarily soured relations with the media. Lloyd has been innovative during his first 12 months and the players respond to him. If he is to survive the rough passages, however, his inclination to speak his mind and damn the consequences will have to be better regulated.

The imminent appointment of a press officer to accompany the team is being welcomed as a step in this direction. "I care about the image of the team and it concerns me that the general public don't view us too kindly," Atherton said. "It is partly our own fault, partly not, but anything that can be done to show us in a better light must be welcomed."

There have been some exceptional performers on this tour. Croft is one, Stewart and Darren Gough two more. Stewart is batting and keeping wicket better than ever; Gough has joyfully recaptured his knack for taking wickets — 26 in the five Tests — with late swing, changes of pace and the best yorker in England.

The development of John Crawley and the renaissance of Andy Caddick are further causes for satisfaction, but two members of the accepted Test side have something to prove. Nick Knight has technical flaws to resolve and will be unable to do so until his broken finger heals. Dominic Cork's problems are deeper and broader. He has not had a happy tour, bowling well below his best and occasionally behaving childishly.

The feud that simmered between Cork and Adam Parore was symptomatic of a series that was played with far more hostility than is customary between these teams. It threatened to boil over when the New Zealand management officially accused Knight of cheating after he had claimed a catch at silly point in the Christchurch Test. The subsequent withdrawal of the protest could not entirely repair the damage.

Atherton's view of sledging is intriguing, considering the summer to come. "It's a man's world out there and it does go on, but I don't consider it an issue unless it is personally offensive or is continued off the field," he said. "Sometimes, a player can go overboard with it and it affects his cricket. Cork got distracted on this tour and I have known it happen to Australian sides in the past."

England now face a home Ashes series followed by a tour to the West Indies, a visit from South Africa and then another trip to Australia. None of these teams will be as lenient if England repeat the bad starts that hampered them in four out of five Tests this winter, but if they can break that habit, and create a virtue out of consistent selection, there is reason to be hopeful after this improbably mixed tour.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

OGOSHI

(c) A hip throw in Judo. From the Japanese *o(u)* big, major + *koshi* the waist or hips. "A ballet dancer broke an arm while trying an Ogoshi throw."

POLER

(a) A cadger or sponger in Australian slang. Someone who shirks work. "You long-jawed poler," Norman roared. "*Living* on the fat of the land, while your poor damn flock feeds on soup and coconuts and what they can root out of the bush."

RIEGEL

(b) A low, transverse ridge of resistant bedrock on the floor of a glacial valley. From the Middle High German *rigel* a crossbar for fastening.

PABST

(b) The proprietary brand name of a lager beer from Milwaukee in the US. "It is impossible to think seriously with words such as Classicism, Romanticism, Humanism, or Realism. But of course these terms are not labels: they have a range of meaning very different from Pabst, Blue Ribbon or Liebfrauenmilch."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxd4! cxd4 2 Qxd7! Rxd7 (better is 2 ... h5 but then White moves his queen and will win quickly thanks to his material superiority and passed pawn on d6) 3 Be5+ mating.

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Batting

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	(Zim, NZ)	100	50	Ct/s
A J Stewart	9	14	2	774	173	64.50	(46.28, 90.00)	3	2	30/3
R C Russell	1	2	1	61	61*	61.00	(—, 61.00)	0	1	3
J P Crawley	10	14	2	582	112	48.50	(65.60, 36.28)	1	4	13
G P Thorpe	9	14	1	511	119	39.30	(26.71, 54.00)	2	3	8
N Hussain	10	16	0	583	139	36.43	(31.12, 41.75)	2	2	13
D G Cork	5	6	2	128	59	32.00	(—, 32.00)	0	1	4
N V Knight	10	17	1	508	114	31.75	(41.00, 22.50)	1	2	18
M A Atherton	10	17	2	456	118	30.40	(12.75, 50.57)	1	3	10
R D B Croft	8	10	1	196	80*	21.77	(28.00, 16.80)	0	1	4
R C Irani	2	4	1	59	40	19.66	(15.00, 22.00)	0	0	1
A R Caddick	6	9	1	121	38	15.12	(28.50, 10.66)	0	0	3
P C R Tufnell	9	10	5	69	19*	13.80	(9.66, 20.00)	0	0	6
C White	5	6	1	69	22*	13.80	(9.00, 15.00)	0	0	1
D Gough	8	10	1	62	18	6.88	(5.40, 8.75)	0	0	2
C E W Silverwood	3	4	0	25	11	6.25	(0.00, 8.33)	0	0	3
A D Mullally	5	6	0	32	21	5.33	(2.25, 11.50)	0	0	2

* denotes not out

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	(Zim, NZ)	Best	5w	10w
G P Thorpe	5.4	2	12	1	12.00	(9.00, —)	1-3	0	0
C E W Silverwood	88.2	23	242	15	16.13	(17.75, 15.54)	6-44	1	0
D Gough	276.3	63	802	44	18.22	(19.31, 17.40)	6-64	3	1
C White	90.4	18	273	14	19.50	(41.00, 17.64)	4-15	0	0
R D B Croft	305.3	82	652	28	23.28	(21.81, 25.25)	5-95	1	0
P C R Tufnell	356.3	110	785	29	27.06	(29.07, 25.20)	5-58	2	0
A R Caddick	205.5	53	467	17	27.47	(42.33, 24.28)	4-45	0	0
A D Mullally	164.4	52	370	13	28.46	(42.00, 20.00)	4-52	0	0
D G Cork	147.5	34	441	14	31.50	(—, 31.50)	3-18	0	0
R C Irani	22.1	4	67	2	33.50	(—, 17.00)	2-13	0	0

A BREAKDOWN of England's tour averages into their separate parts of Zimbabwe and New Zealand reveals some intriguing contrasts in form, none more so than in the case of the captain, Michael Atherton. His loss of form in Zimbabwe is graphically represented by a batting average of 12.75, while his subsequent rehabilitation, culminating in two epic innings at Christchurch, earned a mean of 50.57 for the New Zealand leg and a respectable, if not flattering, final average of 30.40.

With the exception of Nick Knight and of John Crawley, who enjoyed an outstanding tour of Zimbabwe, heading those averages with 65.60, England's specialist batsmen fared better in New Zealand. Alec Stewart had an exceptional tour, scoring 191 runs more than his nearest rival for the top average. Jack Russell's freak average, earned by a doughty innings in a losing cause against New Zealand A, will be some consolation for his harsh treatment by the tour selectors.

The bowlers' form varied little between the countries. Darren Gough (44) was alone in capturing 30 or more wickets and in taking ten wickets in a match (11 for 139 against Matabeleland). The two spinners, Robert Croft and Phil Tufnell, shared 662 overs for a combined return of 57 wickets at 25.21 runs apiece.

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

RADIO CHOICE

More trouble at the Alamo

Document: How Did Davy Die? *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

The Davy in question is David Crockett, the legendary frontiersman who, when last seen on screen, was inside the skins of John Wayne and Fess Parker, swinging Old Betsy, his rifle, as 4,000 Mexicans attacked the mission building called the Alamo back in 1836. But did he really expire in a blaze of spectacular heroics? Or was he captured and executed? — a less heroic and much more controversial version of his last stand that was reported in a Mexican officer's memoirs, published in the 1950s? Fraser Harrison digs deep into the still unsolved mystery, and concludes that myth yields to truth very slowly and very reluctantly. The lost shots in the battle of the Alamo have still to be fired.

Evening Concert. *Classic FM, 8.00pm.*

In these relentlessly commercial times, a musical concert must have a highlight. The problem is: one person's highlight is another's lowlight. The three works we hear tonight don't worry me in that way. I can't choose between Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Britten's sea interludes from *Peter Grimes* and Barber's Violin Concerto. Not all Classic FM will agree with me. Voting in their 1996 Hall of Fame, they put *Carmina Burana* in 35th place, 235 places ahead of the sea interludes. The violin concerto was a non-starter, though Barber's exquisitely haunting *Adagio for Strings* was 19 places ahead of Orff's masterpiece.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** John Peel **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Dave Pearce **4.00am** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Chris Serle **7.00** I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. With Humphrey Lyttelton, Barry Cryer, Graeme Garden, Jeremy Hardy and the late Willie Rushton (r) **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **10.00** Amazing Grace. Cy Grant presents a history of the Negro spiritual (2/3) **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.05pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News **7.10** The Thursday match. SK Brann v Liverpool in the first leg of the European Cup Winner's Cup quarter-final. Plus action from Celtic v Rangers in the fifth round of the Scottish Cup **10.00** News Talk with Paul Reynolds **11.00** News Extra with David McNeil **12.00** After Hours — Early Call with Vincent Hanna **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Network UK **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Composer of the Month **8.45** Health Matters **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Sports International **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian On Screen **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Assignment **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Network UK **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.30** Assignment **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** John Peel **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Books **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Soundbyte **11.30** World Ranking **12.30am** Good Books **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** A History of the British Theatre **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Breakfast Show **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Boughton (Oboe Concerto No 1 in C major) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Saint-Saëns (Violin Sonata No 1 Op 75) **8.00** Evening Concert. See Choice **10.00** Michael Mappin, includes at **11.35** Nocturne **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Rendal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air.** Includes Mackenzie (Overture: The Cricket on the Hearth); Veracini (Violin Sonata No 12 in D minor); Mozart (Sonata in B flat); Wagner (Prelude: Die Meistersinger); Rachmaninov (O Mother of God); Matteis (Bizzarrie All'Umor Scozzese); Strauss (Oboe Concerto)

9.00 **Morning Collection,** with Peter Hobday. Includes Handel (Water Music Suite No 3 in G); Schumann (Konzertstuck in F); Walton (Violin Concerto)

10.00 **Musical Encounters,** with Chris Wines. Includes Chabrier (España); Clementi (Piano Sonata in F sharp); Mozart (Sonata in B flat); Messiaen (Apparition de l'Eglise); Benjamin (Ringed by the Flat Horizon); Arriaga (String Quartet No 2 in A); Horowitz (Carmen Variations)

12.00 **Composer of the Week: Anton Webern**

12.40 **Mozart.** Pinchas Zukerman, violin, Marc Neikrug, piano. Mozart (Violin Sonata in G)

1.00pm **In Repertory.** The *Times* opera critic, Rodney Milnes, talks to Kurt Streit about Mozart's Belmonte (3/5)

2.00 **Yevgeni Kissin.** Recorded in 1986 at the Festival Hall, London. Bach, arr Busoni (Chaconne); Schumann (Fantasy in C, Op 17); Beethoven (Sonata in C sharp minor, Op 27 No 2, Moonlight), Liszt (Harmonies du Soir; Chasse-Neige; Feux Follets; Wilde Jagd. Transcendental Studies)

3.15 **The BBC Orchestras.** BBC Symphony Orchestra under Matthias Bamert. Koechlin (Vers la Voute Étoilée); Gerhard (Piano Concerto; Symphony No 3)

5.00 **Music Machine,** with Tommy Pearson

5.15 **In Tune,** with Humphrey Carpenter. Gordon Jacob (Timpani Concerto); Beethoven (Variations on Haibel's Menuet à la Vigano); François Couperin (Troisième Leçon de Ténèbres)

7.30 **Clocks and Clouds.** Philharmonia Orchestra, under Esa-Pekka Salonen. With Peter Zimmermann, violin. Ravel (Suite: Mother Goose), Ligeti (Violin Concerto; Ramifications); Bartok (Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste)

9.20 **Little England, Big World.** Alistair Beaton is joined by the South African writer, performer and satirist Pieter-Dirk Uys

9.40 **Smart to Be Smart.** Virginia Bottomley remembers her student days at the University of Essex

9.45 **A Bit of a Complex.** The Ulster Orchestra, under Vernon Handley. Stanford (Prelude: Oedipus Tyrannus)

10.00 **Music Restored.** Kym Amps, soprano, and Terence Charlston, harpsichord, perform music by Barbara Strozzi and Francesca Caccini

10.45 **Night Waves.** Patrick Wright and guests discuss the state of the further education system

11.30 **Composer of the Week: Koechlin** (r)

12.30am **Jazz Notes,** with Richard Niles

1.00 **Through the Night,** with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am **Shipping (LW) 6.00** News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament

9.00 **News 9.05 The Moral Maze.** A discussion series chaired by Michael Buerk. With guests David Cook, Janet Daley, Michael Mansfield, QC, and Dr David Starkey

10.00 **News; In the Balance (FM).** The footballing comedy thriller by Mark Tavener (5/6)

10.00 **Daily Service (LW)**

10.15 **On This Day (LW)**

10.30 **Woman's Hour,** with Jenni Murray

11.30 **From Our Own Correspondent** Reports from BBC correspondents around the world

12.00 **News; You and Yours.** Consumer news and current affairs with Charlotte Smith

12.25pm **Foul Play.** Murder mystery panel game. With Simon Brett and guest writers Minette Walters and Frances Fyfield **12.55** Weather

1.00 **The World at One,** with Nick Clarke

1.40 **The Archers** (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 **News; Thursday Afternoon Play: Soup.** The story of a group of homeless people. Written and performed by Michael Mears (r)

3.00 **News; The Afternoon Shift.** The celebrity hairdresser Daniel Galvin talks to Anna MacNamee

4.00 **News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.** Paul Allen sees *Widows*, a play by Ariel Dorfman about a group of Argentinian women whose loved ones disappear

4.45 **Short Story: The Rules of a Man's Life,** by Catherine Merriman. Read by Andy Rivers

5.00 **PM 5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 **Six O'Clock News**

6.30 **Jeremy Hardy Speaks to the Nation,** with Debbie Isitt and Gordon Kennedy

7.00 **News 7.05 The Archers**

7.20 **Document.** See Choice (5/6)

8.00 **Analysis.** In the last programme in the present series, Peter Kellner chairs a discussion about the current political climate in Russia

8.45 **Stages of Redemption.** The writer and actor Nigel Forde reflects on enduring themes drawn from the narrative of Christ's suffering (3/6)

9.00 **Does He Take Sugar?** The programme made for, and by, people with disabilities

9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 **The World Tonight,** with Robin Lustig

10.45 **Book at Bedtime: The Great Railway Bazaar,** by Paul Theroux. Read by William Hurt (9/10) (r)

11.00 **Pet Sematary.** A dramatisation for radio of the chilling novel by Stephen King. With John Sharian, Briony Glassco and Lee Montague (3/6)

11.30 **Close Ups (FM).** Nigel Andrews talks to the flamboyant writer-director John Milius (5/6) (r)

11.30 **Today in Parliament (LW)**

12.00 **News 12.30am The Late Book: The Hobbit,** by J.R.R. Tolkien (4/15) (r)

12.48 **Shipping Forecast**

1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.45am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Studies in fear, guilt and phrase-making

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

The clever thing about last night's **Modern Times** (BBC2) was that its title gave nothing away. "Hong Kong" it was plainly called, and it could have been anything. Still, a succession of interviews with an old colonial, a young Indian journalist, and a refugee from China — against a whirling backdrop of planes, boats, skyscrapers and street markets — gradually announced the theme, which was fear of the imminent Chinese takeover. All credit to producer Lucy Blakstad that the pattern of her film (each person having more to fear than the last) only truly emerged with the final interview subject, a young student in specs and jeans. Jo looked carefree and optimistic, but had in fact been imprisoned and tortured in China after Tiananmen Square, and was now looking in deadly earnest for "a third country" to move on to.

Foreboding isn't an emotion to capture easily in a documentary, and instead of spelling it out, Blakstad opted for expressionism. Planes took off from the airport; helicopters buzzed; time was fatally beguiled by busy-ness. In a city of such extreme colour and movement, it's hard to look to the future: the present is too crowded, or just too interesting. Jimmy, a Hong Kong newspaper proprietor who once in print maligned a Chinese government minister as "son of a turtle's egg" (whoops), sat sad and motionless in a café while blurred figures criss-crossed in front. Do I stay or do I go? The idea of leaving Hong Kong made Jimmy cry. "I escaped from China," he said. "Do I escape again? That's hard, to escape twice in one life."

On camera was the consistently terrific Michael Eley, a choice which helped to make this an intensely visual film — a series of coloured banners, if you like. Just as one will remember Kavita's plight as a former British national stranded in Hong Kong, one will remember the intense orange and white of her dress. The superficiality of her professional life — busy-busy fashion journalism in a city that judges entirely by appearances — was a perfect symbol for that old inadequate panic measure of rearranging the furniture on the *Titanic*. "It doesn't take heritage or breeding to get into society here," she thrilled. "All you need is cash." Meanwhile the planes kept taking off in the background, and Kavita remained at street level — albeit stunning in the orange frock — deciding what to do next.

A certain déjà vu pertained to last night's **Insiders** on BBC1, a series which I can't seem to leave alone. Star inmate this week was Dennis (Philip Whitchurch), a Roman Catholic priest whose guilt for a careless hit-and-run was compounded by a deeper sense of unworthiness, and a higher sense of self-sacrifice, and — well, it was uncomfortably similar to the plot of *Kavanagh QC* on Monday, that's my point.

While the continuing saga of the pretty-boy prison officers ticked by in the background, Father Dennis wrestled with nemesis in the form of Peter Howitt — father to the child killed in the accident. Howitt had been a bad father to his son, you see, so now felt the need to turn his anger outwards. Both felt guilty, but had different ways of expressing it; and their respective guilts kept clambering over each other, like toads in a jar. It wasn't quite clear why the other inmates were so vile to Father Dennis, but at least he rose above it. In the end, he was duffed up by Howitt, and decided to desert the ministry for his girlfriend, on the interesting ground that God wasn't warm and didn't smell of "yesterday's soap". I'm sure God will hear this news with mixed emotions.

As for the continuing story of the prison, I keep waiting for officer Woody Pine (Adrian Rawlins) to get his turn in the spotlight, but it hasn't happened yet. Woody looks like Dennis Bergkamp (Arsenal football player), and all we know about him is that he's faultlessly hard-working, wise and compassionate. This is not enough. In fact, it's getting a bit sickening. There has been an attempt to contrast him with officer Gerry (Robert Cavanah), but it's too obviously nice cop-nasty cop — or in this case, Nice Blond Open University Sociology Degree-Nasty Dark Rules and Regulations.

Finally, a superb subject for Jonathan Meades last night in **Even Further Abroad** (BBC2). Supplying lots of scope for Meades's characteristic hifalutin phrase-making, postwar church architecture is all around us, its weird, graceless buildings monuments to fashion which will possibly *never* be knocked down. It's a worrying thought. We will be forever stuck with churches built during the Festival of Britain — which, as Meades pointed out, was really "the Festival of Borrowing from Scandinavia".

"A phoenix in the shape of a radiogram," he dubbed Coventry Cathedral (which, incidentally, he liked). Standing inside a circular, woody effort, Meades noted, hilariously: "The ascendancy of theatre-in-the-round had not escaped the Church's notice, either." In his signature *Blues Brothers* black suit and Ray-bans, Meades trudged miserably around grey bunkers and fancy fonts, and blamed the Church for weakly surrendering to somebody else's artistic vision, which had nothing to do with God: "It was as though the meat trade had commissioned its new abattoirs from vegans."

The usual *Further Abroad* buffoonery and sight-gags were naturally out in force — with sacrilege thrown in. Meades appeared walking on water, or covered in boils, or leaving an impression of his face (complete with specs) on a discarded towel. Nobody packs more into a half-hour than Meades — and nobody, paradoxically, makes telly more guaranteed to fall out of fashion in no time.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (82709) **7.00** BBC Breakfast News (T) (96631) **9.00** Breakfast News Extra (T) (5481438)
9.20 Style Challenge (4738815)
9.45 Kilroy (4401780)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (39457)
11.00 News (T)news and weather (6434877)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (7046506)
11.35 Change That (8621438)
12.00 News (T), regional news and weather (7588506)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5529709)
12.30 Going for a Song (6899877)
12.55 The Weather Show (79953341)
1.00 News (T) and weather (66490) **1.30** Regional news and weather (83630186)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (11927693)
2.05 Quincy (5369693)
2.50 As Time Goes By (r) (T) (5253544)
3.20 Noble Castles (8650803)
3.30 Playdays (r) (3001032) **3.55** Wham! Bam! Strawberry Jam! (2660790) **4.10** Casper Classics (6849506) **4.10** Rugrats (1488612) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (T) (5433099) **5.00** Newsround (T) (3793902) **5.10** Grange Hill (T) (1767083)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (274693)
6.00 News (T) and weather (419)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (159)
7.00 Watchdog Consumer issues. Includes reports on private health insurance and cable television (T) (4506)
7.30 EastEnders The Fowler family are forced to face up to unpleasant truths (T) (983)
8.00 Wildlife on One: The Eagle Empire How the majestic sea eagle is making a comeback across northern Europe and Scotland (T) (3254)
8.30 A Perfect State A hard-nosed MP arrives in Flatby with orders to undermine the community's fledgling independence — can the equally determined residents stop him in his tracks? Michael Aitkens's comedy stars Gwen Taylor, Rudolph Walker and David Nicholls (T) (2761)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (T), regional news and weather (4341)
9.30 Chalk Preparations for the staff meeting are interrupted when Galfast High springs a leak. School comedy starring David Bamber (T) (60815)
10.00 The X Files: The Walk Mulder and Scully investigate claims that a phantom soldier is stalking a disabled war veteran, determined to prolong his suffering — but they have trouble collaring the culprit (T) (493186)
10.45 Question Time David Dimbleby hosts another topical debate from London. The panel includes Ian Hislop, the Editor of *Private Eye*, Harriet Harman, shadow Social Security spokeswoman and Don Foster, the Liberal Democrats' education spokesman (T) (364419)
11.45 The Mrs Merton Show (r) (T) (968099)
12.15am Unspeakable Acts (1990) Powerful FILM adaptation of a real-life child abuse scandal in which Jill Clayburgh and Brad Davis star as experts attempting to gain evidence against a group of paedophiles from their young victims. Directed by Linda Otto (949842)
1.45 Weather (3909587)

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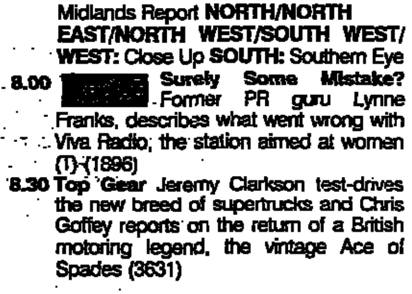
BBC2

6.00am Open University (7417438) **6.25** Organelles and Origins (7429273) **6.50** Enzymes (9251902) **7.15** News (T) (7323693) **7.30** Captain Caveman (8184235) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) (3564709) **8.20** Wishing (7953186) **8.35** The Record (5140693) **9.00** The Science Collection (4716693) **9.25** Job Bank (7035709) **9.40** Megamaths (4876761) **10.00** Playdays (50341) **10.30** Storytime (7296896) **10.45** The Experimenter (2592544) **11.05** Space Ark (6448070) **11.15** In Living Memory (9407815) **11.35** Landmarks (T) (8638728) **11.55** Techno (9245709) **12.15pm** Quinze Minutes Plus (5681693) **12.30** Working Lunch (48693) **1.00** Lifeschool (82382867) **1.25** Isabel (47749902) **1.45** Numbertime (83617235) **2.00** Wishing (36249964) **2.10** Everyone's Got One (2408457) **3.00** News (T) (4050849) **3.05** Westminster (4140612) **3.55** News (T) **4.00** Today's the Day (612) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (896) **5.00** Esther (r) (5612)
5.30 Seniors Pot Black Graham Miles v Rex Williams (148)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (T) (779588)
6.45 Quantum Leap (r) (234032)
7.30 First Sight: Let's Mention the War A group of sixth formers visit the site where Hitler addressed the Nuremburg rallies and make an emotional visit to the death camp at Auschwitz. How will their visit affect their views on a united Europe? (T) (525) **WALES:** Surely Some Mistake? **EAST:** Mater of Fact **MIDLANDS:** Midlands Report **NORTH/NORTH EAST/NORTH WEST/SOUTH WEST/WEST:** Close Up **SOUTH:** Southern Eye
8.00 Surely Some Mistake? Former PR guru Lynne Franks, describes what went wrong with Viva Radio, the station aimed at women (T) (1896)
8.30 Top Gear Jeremy Clarkson test-drives the new breed of supertrucks and Chris Goffey reports on the return of a British motoring legend, the vintage Ace of Spades (3631)



Desperate Heather Osborne (9.00pm)

9.00 Horizon: Fat Cats, Thin Mice A report on obesity and the products designed to help us prevent the pounds piling on (T) (158815)
9.50 Sportsnight Highlights of the first-leg of the European Cup Winners Cup between SK Brann and Liverpool (682983)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (529235)
11.15 Late Review (854693)
11.55 Skiing Forecast (706490)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (57823)
12.30am The Learning Zone: O.U.: Introduction to Psychology (34484) **1.00** From a Different Shore (32262) **2.00** Health and Safety (97216) **4.00** Suenos — World Spanish (77668) **5.00** Business and Work (95804)

CHOICE

Wildlife On One: The Eagle Empire
BBC1, 8.00pm

Meet the white-tailed sea eagle, the largest bird of prey in northern Europe, and, for the purposes of a wildlife film, immensely photogenic. Mike Richards, the cameraman-director, has the perfect subject and he does not waste it. Taking his lens to the coast of Arctic Norway, he gives us a season-by-season account of the great predator's feeding and breeding. The eagle is a master scavenger, whether it is plucking fish out of the sea in its claws, stealing a meal from an otter or moving in on a stillborn reindeer calf. Relatively free from the persecution and pollution which afflicts the eagle elsewhere, Norway has become one of its favourite habitats. It is also being re-established in Scotland.

Surely Some Mistake?
BBC2, 8.00pm (Wales, 7.30pm; not Scotland or Northern Ireland)

Another entertaining trawl through great business blunders features, among others, Lynne Franks, the public relations guru who allegedly inspired the Jennifer Saunders character in *Absolutely Fabulous*. Franks was a prime mover behind Viva, a London radio station aimed at women. The project was fated even before its launch when Katie Turner, the managing director, suffered a brain haemorrhage. But Viva failed because hardly anybody tuned in. Franks and Turner recall the disaster with a commendable lack of embarrassment. We also hear about a restaurant where staff thought that free food and drink was a perk of the job and the curious tale of Tie Rack and Sock Shop, two distinct businesses which became so linked in the public mind that the failure of the second helped to drag down the first.

Shop Till You Drop
Channel 4, 8.00pm

According to people who call themselves retail anthropologists, supermarket shoppers can be divided into six groups. The theory is given substance in an entertaining guide which calls on real trolley-pushers to match up to the stereotypes. The "diehards" are shoppers of habit who buy the same things every time, never try anything new and complain dreadfully if anything is moved to another shelf. At the opposite extreme are the "self-indulgents", prepared to experiment and with the money to do it. And so on down a list that includes those who buy green, those who buy anything as long it is cheap, those who hate shopping and get through as quickly as possible and the supermarkets' favourite customers, the "comfortable and contented", who have the time and the money and stock up in generous quantities.

Horizon: Fat Cats, Thin Mice
BBC2, 9.00pm

For once the scientifically challenged need have no fears. Deborah Cadbury's film on obesity and ways of dealing with it could not be more accessible, and since it applies to so many of us, it is essential, if uncomfortable, viewing. Cadbury's starting point is an organisation in the United States which tries to make the most of fatness and rejects the idea that being overweight is unhealthy. Rubbish, retorts Dr Nick Fisher, a British obesity specialist, and he goes on to list a raft of conditions for which obesity can be responsible, including heart disease, damaged joints, breathing difficulties and, not least, diabetes. Chillingly, the risks can start at only half a stone overweight. The best remedies may lie in diet and exercise but Cadbury also looks at stomach-stapling, the claims of slimming products and genetic experiments on mice. **Peter Waymark**

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6885254)
9.25 Chain Letters (4713506)
9.55 Regional News (T) (5505693)
10.00 The Time, the Place (54167)
10.30 This Morning (T) (37791542)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (7577490)
12.30 News (T) and weather (6817273)
12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (79956438)
12.55 Shortland Street (6892964) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (47727780) **1.50** Afternoon Live (11932525) **2.20** Vanessa (T) (56984032) **2.50** Afternoon Live (5248612)
3.20 News (T) (5193269)
3.25 Regional News (T) (5400380)
3.30 The Riddlers (9715029) **3.40** Wizadora (r) (9941322) **3.50** Cartoon Time (6846419) **3.55** Rupert (r) (5484877) **4.20** Mike and Angelo (1479964) **4.45** Reboot II (5417051)
5.10 A Country Practice (5662167)
5.40 News (T) and weather (457099)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (291896)
6.25 HTV Weather (177877)
6.30 HTV News (167)
7.00 Emmerdale As the police begin their official investigation into a suspicious death, Frank wonders if he has finally reached the end of the road (T) (2902)
7.30 3-D An investigation into the controversial nanny-cam, a device used by American parents to spy on their nannies (T) (821)

Blake and Cryer investigate (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill: Holding On When a young man claims his car has been stolen with his four-month-old baby inside, Cryer and Blake lead the hunt to find the thief and avoid a tragedy (T) (8322)
8.30 Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich (T) Game Show (7457)
9.00 Reckless Richard and Owen meet to discuss the future (T) (6051)
10.00 News (T) and weather (16506)
10.30 Regional News (T) (705341)
10.40 The West This Week On the eve of the Liberal Democrats' spring conference, Paddy Ashdown gives an exclusive interview on his party's election prospects. Plus, Richard Lyddon looks at the effects of privatising British Rail on the passengers (545273)
11.25 Frieze Frame: Horse Hair and Frogs Focusing on John Stagg one of the world's foremost bowmakers (894001)
11.40 Hunter (r) (211964)
12.35am In Bed with MeDinner (5827842) **1.05 Funny Business** (3381281) **1.40** Cyber Cafe (8745113) **2.05** Stand and Deliver (r) (4155007) **3.05** 3-D (r) (T) (65839755) **3.35** The Good Sex Guide Late (r) (8021674) **4.30** The Time, the Place (r) (79200) **5.00** The New Mr and Mrs Show (r) (24262) **5.30** News (52378)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6892964)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5662167)
6.25 Central News (209815)
6.55-7.00 Lifeline (155815)
10.40 Crime Stalker (681344)
11.40 Do I Not Like That! (960728)
12.40am Funny Business (4090281)
1.15 Ed's Night Party (2432264)
1.40 Club Nation (3470129)
2.40 Shift (4318649)
3.35 Stand and Deliver (8021674)
4.35 Central Jobfinder '97 (8109674)
5.20 Asian Eye (8321939)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (6892964)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5662167)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (50438)
10.40 Power Game (438148)
11.10 Tales from the Cider County (173728)
11.40 Traps (211964)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5662167)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (815)
6.30-7.00 Getaways (167)
10.40 Meridian Focus (438148)
11.10 R.J. Mitchell - Birth of a Spitfire (325506)
12.05am Short Story Cinema (6206465)
5.00 Freescreen (24262)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6892964)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5662167)
6.23 Anglia Weather (178506)
6.25 Anglia News (209815)
6.55-7.00 What's On (155815)
10.40 Cover Story (438148)
11.10 Hunter (483344)
12.10am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (7833723)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (75419)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (89341)
9.00 Bewitched (26983)
9.30 Ysgolion (950983)
12.00 House to House (13419)
12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (33761)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (99728)
1.30 Film: Carry on Admiral (81964)
3.00 Collectors' Lot (5235)
3.30 Ricki Lake (273)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (780)
4.30 Howard Goodall's Organ Works (964)
5.00 5 Pump (3380)
5.30 Countdown (544)
6.00 Newyddion (815525)
6.05 Heno (202902)
6.35 Jacpot (184167)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (312273)
7.25 Pwy 'Di Pwy? (654032)
8.00 Pam Fi Duw? (6964)
8.30 Newyddion (5099)
9.00 Heroes of Comedy (4693)
10.00 Film: Damage (54986032)
12.05am Dispatches (8289552)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (75419) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (89341) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (26983)
9.30 Schools (950983)
12.00 House to House (13419) **12.30pm** Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (33761) **1.00** Cybill (r) (T) (60782083) **1.25** Pat and Mat (47725322)
1.50 Footsteps in the Fog (1955) With FILM Stewart Granger and Jean Simmons. Edwardian melodrama about a wife-poisoner who tries to murder the maid who is blackmailing him. Directed by Arthur Lubin (89299254)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (273) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (780) **4.30** Countdown (T) (964) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (3380) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (544)
6.00 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (T) (457)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (709)
7.00 Channel 4 News (278934)
7.50 Winners and Losers (155344)
8.00 Shop Till You Drop The habits and quirks of shoppers (2/4) (T) (6964)
8.30 TV Dinners In the last of the series Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall takes another look at two of his favourite dinners from the series. Eddie Baines and Steve Donovan prepare a special anniversary meal for their wives and Felicity Keebaugh transforms her flat into cavewoman's den with a menu to match (9/9) (T) (5099)
9.00 Dispatches An inside account of the underworld of drugs and crime that lead to teenager Leah Betts's death in a Basildon nightclub (T) (493490)
9.45 Bright Sparks The story of Wolfie, a rhythm and blues harmonica player who tours the London pubs (T) (830235)

A family at war (10.00pm)

10.00 Hope and Glory (1987) John Boorman's FILM autobiographical memoir of an ordinary family living in London during the Second World War Blitz, as seen through the eyes of a nine-year-old boy. With Sebastian Rice-Edwards, Sarah Miles and Ian Bannen (54986032)
12.05am The Unpleasant World of Penn and Teller (r) (T) (6204007)
12.35 Drowning by Bullets A documentary look at the massacre of Algerians by the French police that took place in Paris in October, 1961 (r) (T) (5164200)
1.35 Nothing But the Truth The rights and wrongs of a book written by a former Highgrove housekeeper being banned in Britain but on sale in other parts of the world. Last in series (r) (3399200)
2.35 Nomads Siberia's Evenki reindeer herders. Last in series (r) (T) (4991303)
3.35 Schools: Reform and Reaction 4.00 Encyclopaeida Galactia **4.10** Russia **4.30** Schools at Work **4.35** The Glittering Haze **5.05** An Inner City Riot (322281)
5.30 Backdate (r) (T) (43620)

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (340877) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (45780) **10.00** Another World (31728) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (11954) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (74032) **1.00pm** Geraldo (83780) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (79490) **3.00** Jenny Jones (90506) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (94411) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4761) **6.00** Real TV (4099) **6.30** Married — with Children (8061) **7.00** The Simpsons (5490) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4235) **8.00** Just Kidding (1438) **8.30** The Nanny (3273) **9.00** Seinfeld (94475) **9.30** Mad About You (75761) **10.00** Chicago Hope (45544) **11.00** Selina Scott (44970) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (70867) **12.30am** LAPD (54216) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (1166945)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (6198877) **8.00** Sliders (6107525) **9.00** Highlander (6187761) **10.00** Tek War (6197148) **11.00** Late Show (6711051) **12.00** Hit Mix (9511991)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.05am MacShayne: Final Roll of the Dice (1993) (72722186) **8.00 Silver Bears (1978)** (93070) **10.00 Neverending Story III: Return to Fantasia (1994)** (99341) **12.00 The Major and the Minor (1942)** (83693) **2.00pm Mass Appeal (1984)** (38696) **4.00 Freefall: Flight 174 (1995)** (9623) **6.00 Police Academy VII: Mission to Moscow (1994)** (36142167) **7.40 US Top 10** (196322) **8.00 Problem Child III (1995)** (31098) **9.30 Movie Show** (78047) **10.00 Hostile Force (1996)** (745877) **11.40 Once Were Warriors (1994)** (981902) **1.20am Sleeping Dogs (1977)** (345281) **3.05 A Walk with Love and Death (1969)** (8515945) **4.35 MacShayne: Final Roll of the Dice (1993)**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Oregon Trail (1959) (78099) **7.30 Shipyard Sally (1939)** (8890235) **8.50 Willy Fog: Around the World in 80 Days** (4319693) **10.10 The St Tammany Miracle (1994)** (40478273) **12.00 My Family Treasure (1993)** (81235) **2.00pm The Pride of Jesse Hallam (1981)** (34498) **4.00 The Kid from Left Field (1979)** (7235) **6.00 Monkey Trouble (1994)** (47902) **8.00 Schindler's List (1993)** (65040506) **11.15 Boys on the Side (1995)** (820070) **1.15am A Woman Scorned (1993)** (131179) **3.05 Judicial Consent (1995)** (498397) **4.45 Monkey Trouble (1994)** (85109378)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm The Lost Weekend (1945) (3983893) **8.00 I'm Gonna Git You, Sucka (1989)** (3995438) **10.00 The Naked Gun (1988)** (7190341) **11.30 The Beast (1988)** (5354728) **1.25am Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte (1965)** (73193484) **3.40-5.30 Ninotchka (1939)** (1915842)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from **5am to 9pm**, then **TNT** films as follows.
9.00pm A Life in the Theatre (1993) (92296877) **11.00 Lolita (1962)** (33584983) **1.35am The Loved One (1965)** (93894668) **3.40-5.00 A Time to Kill (1955)** (21982823)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
6.00am Mouse Tracks (6874885) **6.25** Quack Attack (7329970) **6.50** Bonkers (9793264) **7.15** Little Mermaid (1007341) **7.40** Aladdin (2383051) **8.05** Mighty Ducks (3403167) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (7937593) **8.40** Care Bears (1884099) **9.10** Grounding Marsh (2203186) **9.40** Big Garage (8479167) **9.55** Lamb Chop (8291235) **10.25** Muppet Babies (5352235) **10.50** Dumbo's Circus (1286322) **11.20** Mouse Tracks (4830877) **11.50** Pooh Corner (1311612) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (8283273) **12.35** Little Mermaid (6895254) **1.00** Best of Disney (1981728) **1.50** Aladdin (62002877) **2.10** Darkwing Duck (53348983) **2.35** Bonkers (5182419) **3.00** Quack Attack (6738438) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (4128780) **3.35** Goof Troop (5118983) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (4239235) **4.10** Goof Troop (9565438) **4.35** Bonkers (5171709) **5.00** Aladdin (4846001) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (8676506) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (175883) **6.00** Bone Chillers (8877) **6.30** Boy Meets World (2457) **7.00** Dave's World (6544) **7.30 FILM: Song of Hiawatha** (99728) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (5566167) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7767815) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6735631) **7.30** Power Rangers (6721438) **8.00** Masked Rider (7792780) **8.30** Crocadoo (7791051) **9.00** Rimba's Island (5983902) **9.25** Why Why Family (2489902) **9.30** Zoobilee Zoo (3159490) **9.55** Why Why Family (8782380) **10.00** Rimba's Island (7532047) **10.25** Why Why Family (5315709) **10.30** Zoobilee Zoo (93032490) **10.55** Why Why Family (82191254) **11.00** Princess Starla (2250506) **11.30** Pinocchio (2251235) **12.00** Billy the Cat (7702167) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (29255341) **12.50** Power Rangers (29146649) **1.10** Masked Rider (25848457) **1.30** Ace Ventura (6594896) **2.00** Casper (4854709) **2.30** Life with Louie (7003380) **3.00** Eek-Stravaganza (4866544) **3.30** Ace Ventura (8558475) **4.00** Casper (3308772) **4.30** Power Rangers (3603524) **5.00** Masked Rider (4838761) **5.30** Spiderman (9908916) **6.00** Goosebumps (2158439) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (2958231)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (58419) **7.30** World Wrestling Federation (93322) **8.30** Racing News (74983) **9.00** Sports Centre (65235) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (63047) **10.00** Futbol Mundial (43099) **10.30** Live Golf: Moroccan Open (84186) **12.30pm** World of Super League (74709) **2.30** Futbol Mundial (4896) **3.00** Live Golf: Moroccan Open (64099) **4.59** Sports Centre (6269032) **5.00** World Wrestling Federation (9235) **6.00** Sports Centre (5625) **6.30** Nutbusters (6877) **7.00** Tennent's Scottish Cup Fifth Round: Celtic v Rangers — Live (188964) **10.00** Sports Centre (86728) **10.30** Angling Masters (39490) **11.30** Golf: Moroccan Open (50029) **1.30am** Angling Masters (12281) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (32397)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm Angling Masters (4884709) **9.00** Golf: Doral Ryder Open (4887896) **11.00** Bobby Charlton's Scrapbook (8674506) **12.30-1.00** Second Innings (3121754)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Aerobics Oz Style (54680051) **12.30pm** Beach Volleyball (28258438) **1.30** Sea TV (56718693) **2.00** Inside the PGA Tour (70861148) **2.30** Grass Roots Rugby (83900070) **3.00** Live Cricket (28072032) **10.00** Football League Review (92219099) **11.00-11.30** Snowboard Show (32493506)

Ray Milland and Howard Da Silva (Sky Movies Gold, 6.00pm)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (88490) **8.30** Sailing (69051) **9.00** ATP Tour Review (83631) **9.30** Figure Skating (97490) **11.00** Motors (64070) **12.00** Cross-Country Skiing (17186) **1.00pm** Snowboarding (93506) **2.00** Tennis: ABN/AMRO World Tournament — Live (67780) **4.00** Truck Racing (42983) **5.00** FA Cup Finals 1986 and 1989 (7631) **6.00** Skiing (57970) **7.00** Football: SK Brann v Liverpool — Live (44992877) **9.15** European Cup Winners Cup (760709) **10.00** Snooker: European Open (69419) **12.00-12.30am** Stars Magazine (37007)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Krypton Factor (2102254) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (9467693) **6.45** Our Backyard (1510678) **7.00** Alphabet Zoo (4690761) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (5013525) **7.30** Return of the Antelope (6065254) **8.00** Classic Coronation St (4255341) **8.30** Families (4254612) **9.00** The Professionals (7111902) **10.00** Second Thoughts (7350051) **10.30** Two's Company (4241148) **11.00** Within These Walls (6074902) **12.00** Classic Coronation St (4265728) **12.30pm** Families (7137148) **1.00** Albion Market (1645490) **1.30** Krypton Factor (7136419) **2.00** Drummonds (7351780) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (1153254) **4.00** Doctor Series (6393612) **4.30** Second Thoughts (6399696) **5.00** The Professionals (6470438) **6.00** Families (6370761) **6.00** Classic Coronation St (7145167) **7.00** Doctor Series (6471167) **7.30** Two's Company (6390525) **8.00** Upstairs Downstairs (7878964) **9.00** Classic Coronation St (2296419) **9.35** Good Life Guide (2052612) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (7891815)
From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From **6.00am-9.00** TV High Street
From **9.00-12.00** Food and Wine
From **12.00-3.00pm** Health and Beauty
From **3.00-6.00** Home and Garden

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: General MacArthur (8497902) **5.00** Our Century (3143525) **6.00-8.00** History Alive Special (4876780)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Twilight Zone (1311129) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3361939) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror (7267723) **2.30** Night Gallery (2017020) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am Joy of Painting (2348902) **9.30** Grow with Joe (2166709) **10.00** Two's Country Cooking (4716070) **10.30** Our House (2342186) **11.00** Fix It (5882099) **11.30** This Old House (5883728) **12.00** Versatile Vegetables (2333438) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2160525) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8672544) **1.30** Home Again (2169686) **2.00** Hometime (4619877) **2.30** Furniture (8741544) **3.00** Two's Country (4621612) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (8713761)
DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.
4.00pm Fishing Adventures II (8732896) **4.30** Bush Tucker Man (8721780) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4633457) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (8712032) **6.00** Wild Things (8742273) **6.30** Wild Things (8733525) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (4613693) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (8739709) **8.00** Professionals (3901508) **9.00** Top Marques II (5862235) **9.30** Disaster (2140761) **10.00** Medical Detectives (2334167) **11.00** Last Great Roadrace (6322902) **1.00am** Roadshow (4568200) **1.30-2.00** Extremists (6206910)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (6072683) **7.35** Neighbours (9837273) **8.00** Crossroads (1509148) **8.25** EastEnders (8863780) **9.00** The Bill (2315032) **9.30** Bread (2168167) **10.00** Never the Twain (4725728) **10.30** The Sullivans (2344544) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (8870186) **12.00** Crossroads (2335896) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2162983) **1.00** EastEnders (9872439) **1.35** No Place Like Home (3966815) **2.10** Emery (28177612) **2.20** Three Up, Two Down (1694475) **3.00** Tellystack (4623070) **3.30** The Bill (8722419) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (5875709) **5.00** Full House (4712411) **5.40** Crossroads (6872877) **6.05** EastEnders (2131362) **6.40** Ever Decreasing Circles (3957070) **7.20** Man About the House (7855728) **7.50** Are You Being Served? (1864506) **8.30** Russ Abbot (4810506) **9.00** The Bill (5864693) **9.30** The Equalizer (9079254) **10.30** Rowland Rivron (5658506) **11.05** Men Behaving Badly (8496709) **11.35** Alexei Sayle (3202709) **12.10am** The Best of TOTP (8370991) **12.55** Blur in Profile (4158910) **1.10** Miami Vice (9479552) **2.05** Shopping (65874133)

TCC

6.00am Anne of Green Gables/Road to Avonlea (11273) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (79709) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (81544) **8.00** Batman (75344) **8.30** An Attack (25885) **9.00** Flash Gordon (21815) **9.30** Bobby's World (32419) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (55631) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (27099) **11.00** Danger Mouse (79051) **11.30** Gravedale High (70780) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (25821) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy (36235) **1.00** By Way of the Stars (61780) **1.30** Black Beauty (35506) **2.00** Girl from Tomorrow (8902) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (3322) **3.00** Art Attack (4709) **3.30** Flash Gordon (5167) **4.00** Batman (7902) **4.30-5.00** Big Dish (3186)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes (89148) **6.30** Count Duckula (10761) **7.00** Rocko (9954544) **7.15** Hey Arnold! (6069696) **7.30** Rugrats (68696) **8.00** Doug (73254) **8.30** Arthur (72525) **9.00** Children's BBC (63877) **9.30** Children's BBC (85269) **10.00** Wimzie's House (34341) **10.30** Babar (52761) **11.00** Magic School Bus (31877) **11.30** Henry's Cat/Wil Cwac Cwac/Lizzie's Library/Topsey and Tim/Jimbo (32506) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (76341) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (41825) **1.00** Children's BBC (48032) **1.30** Children's BBC (57916) **2.00** Dr Seuss (7490) **2.30** Kissyfur (2438) **3.00** Wishbone (6525) **3.30** Stickin' Around (7983) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (6490) **4.30** Rugrats (5902) **5.00** Sister Sister (1070) **5.30** Moesha (6254) **6.00** Press Gang (3187) **6.30-7.00** Doug (4419)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm E UK (8506) **7.30** Roseanne (6631) **8.00** Roseanne (7254) **8.30** Monty Python (6761) **9.00** Cheers (44341) **9.30** Taxi (81761) **10.00** Garry Shandling (77070) **10.30** Frasier (53490) **11.00** The Doctor is On (56186) **11.30** Monty Python (30525) **12.00** Nurses (33281) **12.30am** Soap (94804) **1.00** Cheers (76668) **1.30** Taxi (99007) **2.00** E UK (11804) **2.30** The Doctor is On (30939) **3.00** Frasier (56804) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling (14991)

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (3998032) **9.00** Burning Zone (3918896) **10.00** Tour of Duty (3911983) **11.00 FILM: Hell's Angels on Wheels** (6326728) **1.00am** Burning Zone (8482020) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9050129) **3.00 FILM: Hell's Angels on Wheels** (2084533) **5.00** Robocop (6377303)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (2642438) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (3461438) **9.15** Gordon Elliot (8423544) **10.05** Jerry Springer (4560070) **11.00** Young and the Restless (8971099) **11.45** Super Fresco Fabulosious (44341693) **11.50** Brookside (2909457) **12.25pm** Why Me? (70674322) **12.55** Tempest (3269187) **1.40** Rolonda (9688780) **2.30** Agony Experience (2870964) **3.00** Live at Three (49279438) **4.05** Jerry Springer (5251896) **5.05** Lingo (84935419) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2874780) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (6940781) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (3538780) **7.05** Brookside (1527457) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (6546457) **8.05** Rolonda (8853902) **9.00 FILM: Run for Your Life** (84607254) **10.55** Sex Life (3998273) **11.25-12.00** More Sex Life

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Prize Time (8679693) **5.05** Blockbusters (1398148) **5.35** Prize Time (270902) **5.50** Spellbound (183902) **6.20** Prize Time (789761) **6.30** Catchphrase (256952) **6.55** Prize Time (509186) **7.05** Sale of the Century (117780) **7.30** Prize Time (622457) **7.40** Gives Us a Clue (928983) **8.10** Prize Time (880544) **8.20** All Clued Up (656803) **8.50** Prize Time (893544) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (318438) **9.25** Prize Time (762235) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (296877) **10.00** Prize Time (860781) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (787902) **11.05** Prize Time (386490) **11.20** Love at First Sight (799815) **11.45** Prize Time (640235) **12.00** Sale of the Century (88755) **12.30am** Hart to Hart (33552) **1.30** Lou Grant (65397) **2.30** Snowy River: The McGregor Saga (11649) **3.30** All Together Now (69465) **4.00-5.00** Fall Guy (75262)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Morning **8.30** Business **9.00** Hasya Tera Ghar Vasya **9.30** Campus **10.00** Sahil **11.00** Aashiana **11.30** Banegi Apni Baat **12.00** Dastaan **12.30pm** Sauda **1.00** Hindi **FILM: Taxi Chor** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.10** ZEE Top 10 **5.10** Vikram Aur Beetal **6.00** Sony Meri Lorry **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Euro Zindagi **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News **8.30** Andaz **9.05** Jeel **9.30** Hasratain **10.00** Commander **10.30** Song Yaatra **11.00** Zee Horror Show **11.30-12.00** Aap Ki Farmaish

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THURSDAY MARCH 6 1997

Striker may miss European tie

Liverpool lose patience with Collymore

FROM DAVID MILLER IN BERGEN

STAN COLLYMORE, Liverpool's £8 million forward signed from Nottingham Forest at the beginning of last season, may think he is a gift to the game. He is likely to discover tonight that the door is open for him to move on once more. He is unlikely to play in Liverpool's Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg against SK Brann.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, has two dilemmas: whether to include the disaffected, moody Collymore, who was substituted in their defeat by Aston Villa on Sunday, and, with the injured Mark Wright left behind on Merseyside, who should be his third defender with Ruddock and Matteo — Babb, Rob Jones or Harkness. Ruddock himself has not been a starting choice since January.

There was a time when a trip to Norway for any prominent English club was no more than an informal training stint. No longer. Liverpool have enough problems here in imposing, panoramic, rain-swept Bergen tonight to be aware that any errors may jeopardise a place in the semi-finals.

Although Brann will be handicapped by the fact that they are returning to action after their winter break, they defeated PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch league leaders, to reach the quarter-final. Their striker, Mons Ivar Mjelde, has scored 12 goals in European competition and is capable of unhingeing the best of defenders. He scored twice in the defeat of PSV.

In Evans's opinion, it is lack of consistency rather than quality that separates the present Liverpool team, standing second in the FA Carling Premiership, from emulating the club's former trophy-winning sides, yet Collymore's temperamental inadequacy is one of the reasons for their present inconsistency. His disappointing display against Villa, leading to his replacement by Berger in the second half, suggests that Berger will be preferred for this game. Evans's comment last night that there was "a fair chance" that Liverpool would play with only one man up front — Fowler — was less than enigmatic.

Collymore, who has yet to move house from the Midlands since leaving Nottingham, sulked after his substitution on Sunday and failed to appear for training on Tuesday. Not for the first time. Evans admits to being unable to fathom Collymore's moods. The present position, however, cannot be tolerated indefinitely. Collymore's unpredictability harms the performance, not to say the morale, of his colleagues.

The long-term solution will almost certainly be to let him move on. For all Evans's undemonstrative words in public — "Tell *me* what his motives are" — Liverpool have never been a club to suffer self-preoccupation in a player.

Evans will probably play safe tonight, because he is well aware of the quality of the opposition. Comparing Brann with Brondby, of Denmark, who beat Liverpool in the Uefa Cup last season, Evans said: "Brann are very organised and talented and we saw them win in Cologne [a non-competitive match during their break]. Brondby did shut us out and made scoring difficult, but Brann have a strike force that must be considered. If we don't play up to standard, we know we could lose."

Assuming that Berger does play with McManaman behind Fowler, Evans will also be looking for some belated form from Redknapp. At 23, a six-year first-team veteran, Redknapp has yet to develop the playmaker's command of midfield that was forecast by Terry Venables, the former England coach. As England's star-of-tomorrow, Redknapp has been overtaken by Beckham, of Manchester United, and his performance against Villa was not outstanding. Talent is no excuse for not sweating.

Kjell Tennfjord, the Brann coach, dismissed the idea that Brann are weakened by the loss of two players — the Iceland international goalkeeper, Birkir Kristinsson, and Jan Ove Pedersen in midfield — through registration confusion, and professed to be strongly optimistic. "Liverpool, in my opinion, are the best side in England," he said last night, "but we can beat them if we have two good days. To have a chance, I think we must win the home leg."

Radio row 3
Iversen wins his spurs ... 44

BRIAN HATTON

Fixing a hole: Groundsmen investigate the hole in the pitch at Kingfield that caused the abandonment of a match, and another found yesterday

Hole story behind club's sinking fortunes

BY WALTER GAMMIE

"THE council are looking in to it," followed by a titter — such was the stock response to callers to Woking Football Club yesterday as they sought enlightenment to the Vauxhall Conference scoreline in *The Times* yesterday morning that read: Woking v Hayes, match abandoned (20min), hole in pitch.

The Surrey club hopes to get to the bottom of the matter this morning when the specialist company that surveyed the house of Fred West in Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and the underground workings of bypass protestors brings its equipment to scan the Kingfield pitch. "They've offered us two hours of their time, free," Phil Ledger, the Woking chairman, said.

It was Ledger's quick thinking in offering spectators free admission when the match is staged again that dug Woking out of their hole on Tuesday night. The 2,000 fans were understandably restive at being cheated of their fill, with no provision existing for a refund.

Furthermore, although two man-sized craters — and the knots of bystanders peering into them — made the problem obvious yesterday, it was by no means so apparent on Tuesday night. Indeed, when Kevan Brown, the Woking captain, initially unearthed the Kingfield crater, his teammates did not let him believe it. "I received the ball from the left-hand side of the pitch and as I went to pass it, my standing leg gave way, I stumbled and almost fell over," he said.

"As play went up the other end, I said to Steve Foster: 'There must be a hole'. He just laughed and thought I was joking. Play went on for another couple of minutes and then Andy Ellis saw the hole, stood by it and called over the referee. It was about the size of a football and went down two or three feet."

Ledger was among those summoned to investigate by Paul Armstrong, the referee. "He put a corner flag into it and it went in very, very easily," he said. "We put soil into it but it didn't help. He thought that if a player put his foot into the hole, he might break his ankle, and the managers agreed in those circumstances the match shouldn't go ahead.

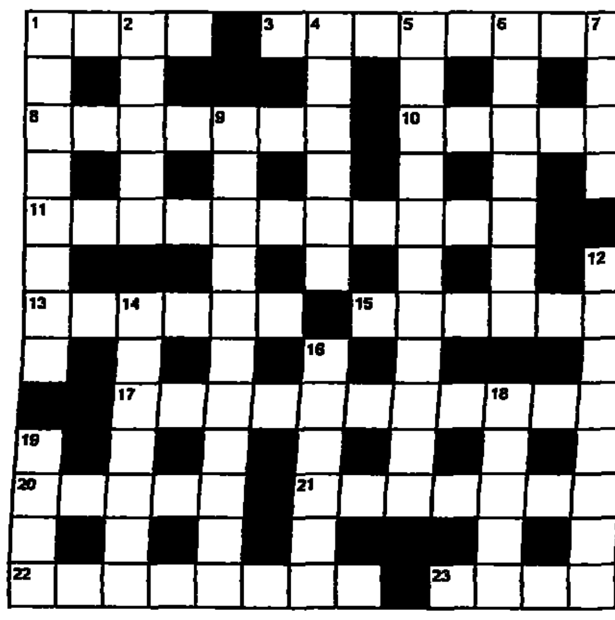
"There was a 2ft square chamber with drainage pipes coming off it. A piece of biscuit-like cement was put over the top to stop bits of dirt falling into it. Earlier in the morning, it had been very wet and we had used a Verti-drainer on it. That cuts up the crust of the pitch and spikes the ground and we think it must have broken through the top of the chamber."

If the scan reveals no extensive damage to the rest of the drainage system, Woking hope to resume normal service for their supporters next Tuesday in a Conference match against Welling United. The Capital League match against Welling tonight, however, has been postponed, and the Surrey FA's youth county championship semi-final on Saturday is in doubt.

Woking Borough Council knows that it is on to a good thing, if not a hole new ball game, by backing Woking, who attract publicity with unerring ease, even it is normally by overturning Football League clubs in the FA Cup or reaching FA Umbro Trophy finals. It has just agreed a third year of sponsorship for £30,000.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1034 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
- 1 To trick; one tricked (4)
- 3 *Tom Brown* bully (8)
- 8 *Malade Imaginaire* creator (7)
- 10 (Venerated) survival (5)
- 11 A-level student (5-6)
- 13 Firmly assert (6)
- 15 Reach (6)
- 17 Home-owner (11)
- 20 Massacre of Innocents king (5)
- 21 Hang up; defer (7)
- 22 Advance (8)
- 23 Stigma; pronounce indistinctly (4)

DOWN
- 1 Of the home (8)
- 2 Flower; sounds like *lots of sheep* (5)
- 4 Keep doggo (3,3)
- 5 Delectable (11)
- 6 Mosquito-borne disease (7)
- 7 Impudence; part of body, of violin (4)
- 9 Depth-gauging device (4,7)
- 12 Trespasser (8)
- 14 Lively movement, may have trio (7)
- 16 Against (another team) (6)
- 18 Live (in) (5)
- 19 Cut; vacillate, with *change* (4)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address ______________________________

SOLUTION TO NO 1033
ACROSS: 5 Circumscribe 8 Guinea 9 Curare 10 East 12 Diagram 14 Octopus 15 Deny 17 Angler 18 League 20 Pettifogging
DOWN: 1 Acquiescence 2 Bran 3 Psychic 4 Prorogue 6 Utah 7 Barnaby Rudge 11 Smollett 13 Putrefy 16 Clog 19 Akin

Wigan shopping for new stadium

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WIGAN Rugby League Club yesterday announced the sale of Central Park, its home since 1902, to Tesco for a supermarket development. Wigan plan to use the proceeds of the £12 million deal to build a new stadium, but continue to be opposed by Dave Whelan, the multimillionaire businessman, who had offered to buy and redevelop the ground at a combined cost of £21.5 million.

Whelan, the owner of Wigan Athletic Football Club, whose offer for Central Park for use by the rugby league and football clubs was passed by an overwhelming majority of Wigan shareholders, said: "The Wigan board are boasting they've scored a victory against me. This isn't a victory, it's a tragedy.

"It has echoes of the furore in football at Brighton, where they have money in the bank from selling the ground and nowhere to play. Wigan have even approached me about helping them with this talk of a new stadium. I've been sitting with these fellows for six weeks and they've done this deal behind the backs of everyone. I don't want to be in the same room as them."

Whelan, a former Wigan president and lifelong supporter, said that he would not attend another game until Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, and Tom Rathbone, another director, went. Both men are believed to have swung the Tesco deal as debenture shareholders with superior voting rights, one of several aspects of the agreement about which Whelan is taking legal advice.

"If it can be opposed legally, and Robinson and Rathbone were removed and the shareholders appointed a new board, I'd talk to them and, hopefully, offer the same deal for the ground," Whelan said.

Wigan can remain at Central Park this season and next and the club has an option on a temporary move to Bolton Wanderers' new stadium, five miles away at Horwich, while a new ground is built at one of three proposed sites. If unsuitable, however, a permanent home outside Wigan is not excluded.

Reaction yesterday to confirmation of the sale suggests that Wigan will have a hard job convincing supporters that turning Central Park into a supermarket is in the club's best interests.

Robinson said that there might be intransigence from mainly older supporters, but he felt that younger people were open to persuasion and would see the benefits. "It's called progress. We've got to get with it," he said.

In a letter to shareholders, Robinson said that Whelan's lease proposal for Central Park was a "business strait-jacket" that would restrict the club's ability to raise revenue. Whelan has said that, after tax and payment on land owned by the Wigan local authority, the club will be left with about £4 million from the Tesco deal — the same amount he offered to buy Central Park.

David Bradshaw, the Wigan director of operations, said: "We always believed that the ideal scenario was for the club to be playing in a state-of-the-art stadium. What we now have is a marvellous opportunity to bring that dream to reality."

Graham on slow route to title

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

HEROL GRAHAM'S second comeback contest, against Craig Joseph, of Bradford, on Tuesday night, earned him time to prove himself. The former British, European and Commonwealth champion, 37, who has been trying to convince promoters that he has still enough in him to campaign as a championship contender, has been given one year to show if he can compete with young super-middleweights.

Graham: easy win

After Graham's one-sided win over Joseph at the Elephant and Castle, Frank Maloney, his manager, who gave him a generous six out of ten for his effort, said that he would let the Sheffield man box three more times to "find himself" and then put him to the final test.

Maloney will allow him to challenge David Starie, of Bury St Edmunds, who is expected to lift the British title when he meets Sam Storey, of Northern Ireland, on April 8. If Graham can get past Starie, he might have a chance of meeting the established super-middleweights in Britain. Maloney will put Graham on again in April in Hull. "He put up a good enough performance tonight," Maloney said, "but at this level he'll never be in any trouble and will not make much money. I'll take it one fight at a time. Then after three or four fights we've got to see if he can fight."

Graham said: "I want to get to the top. A lot of people say I can't. A lot of people say if I get the opportunity to take it, 'you've still got your speed, reflexes and boxing ability, use it to the best of your ability'.

"If they want me to come back to boxing and do what I did straightaway, that's impossible. Even the best football team can't do it. But the cobwebs are coming off and I can only get better and better."

Chris Eubank has been given the chance to return to mainstream boxing. The former World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, who has been promoting his own contests in the Middle East since his second defeat by Steve Collins 17 months ago, was yesterday offered a British and European title bout with the champion, Crawford Ashley, of Leeds.

Maloney said that he had sent a fax to Eubank offering £350,000 for the bout, which would be held in London in May or June. "Crawford has already sent him a fax but he has had no reply so I am sending him one officially now," Maloney said. "We are offering him £350,000 for the two titles and the bout will also be an eliminator for a world championship."

MORSE

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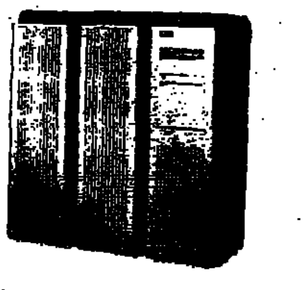

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